Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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120-plus children on Head Start wait-list. PAGE 3

Nursing assistant program eyed for SSHS students. PAGE 7

# Ada: No CNMI bank has extended SBA loan in 5 years

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada has asked banks to shed light on their lending practices following findings that not one in the CNMI has extended U.S. Small Business Administration-guaranteed loans in the last five years.

"It has come to my attention that no financial institution has originated and subsequently made a loan to avail of the U.S. SBA-guaranteed loan program within the last five years to any small businesses in the CNMI," Ada told bank officials in separate letters dated March 10, copies of which were obtained yesterday.

Ada

He said this is "disheartening," given that the CNMI economy is largely derived from small business.

"While I can appreciate the hesitancy of financial institutions to lend in tough economic times, it is disheartening to know that the financial resources required by our small businesses in order to sustain and grow within our economy are non-existent, especially given that the federal government through the SBA guarantees such loans up to 90 percent of the exposure," he added.

*See ADA on Page 4*

# Fitial hits USCIS; issues own Q&A

## » AG: CNMI may revoke aliens' immigration status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that the answers provided by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services on federalization and the extent to which CNMI laws continue to be enforced during the two-year transition period following Nov. 28, 2009 "are not consistent" with the provision of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham also issued yesterday a legal opinion stating that the CNRA does not expressly preempt the CNMI from administering and revoking Commonwealth immigra-

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**Q&A**

## Employment requirements imposed by CNMI law

**The CNMI government issues its own "Questions & Answers" document with respect to foreign workers or foreign investors in the Commonwealth "so that the differences between the federal government and the CNMI on these issues can be easily understood." The CNMI government also argues that the answers provided by USCIS to some questions were not consistent with the provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, PL 110-229.**

**See Page 9**

# OAG submits findings in Fernandez probe

Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents chair Janet H. King, center, asks members of the public, faculty members and students to leave the conference room shortly before the start of the board's executive session wherein they discussed the fate of suspended NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, yesterday afternoon.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## » Regents delay action pending results of own investigation

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office turned over yesterday to the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents the results of its investigation against suspended NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez but the board held off making any decision on the matter until after it gets the results of its own probe on the issue.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham and case investigator Vince Babauta submitted to the board more than 20 pages of documents detailing

*See OAG on Page 4*

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How would you describe your level of understanding of federalization as it applies to labor in the CNMI?

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The mystery surrounding a Toyota Prius whose driver reported a stuck accelerator deepens.

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The ambulance crew suspected golfer Tiger Woods' wife of domestic violence.

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# Local

## Zoning urged to rescind order vs firm

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has asked the Saipan Zoning Office to rescind its cease-and-desist order against Servino & Associates, which has been doing business in the CNMI as Advanced Engineering Consulting Co. for some 20 years now.

Torres wrote a March 12 letter to acting Zoning Administrator Therese T. Ogumoro and Zoning Board chair Herminia M. Fusco, to protest the notice of violation issued on March 10 to Advanced Engineering Consulting Co.

The Zoning Office said Servino & Associates "had a lack of permit as a business owner."

But Torres said Servino & Associates has in fact a valid business license "with an implied zoning permit issued in February 2009."

"I firmly believe that your Zoning Office's anti-business mentality is a major detriment to the socio-economic recovery of Saipan, and eventually you will probably have to zone the entirety of Saipan as a 'Business Ghost Island,'" Torres told Fusco and Ogumoro in his two-page letter.

Ogumoro, when asked for comment yesterday, said the Zoning Office will respond to Torres' letter.

"All violation notices from this office are only issued after they undergo extensive review and a determination has been made that recipients of such notices fail to follow the zoning law requirements," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail response.

Torres

She could not say yet whether her office will grant Torres' request to rescind the notice of violation, which also imposed a fine.

"I'd answer this in my response to him," Ogumoro added.

Advanced Engineering Consulting Co. relocated from their Chalan LauLau office to their present location in Oleai/San Jose in July 2008, after securing the property prior to August 2007 and constructing a building on the lot in late 2007.

Torres, in his letter, said it was known during the time of the construction and the occupancy of the building that the firm would be doing business in Oleai/San Jose prior to the enactment of the Saipan Zoning Law.

In February 2009, Servino & Associates was granted a renewal of their business license while doing business as Advanced Engineering Consulting in their San Jose/Oleai office. They conducted business at this location until early this month when the Saipan Zoning Office issued the firm a "Notice of Violation – Stop and Cease and Desist Order" dated March 10, 2010.

Torres said contrary to the Zoning Office's reason for the citation, Servino & Associates "did have a valid business license."

"Servino & Associates should be allowed to continue doing their long-time business based upon the legal permission and the notion of a 'grandfathering exemption' before the enactment of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008 and subsequently, the fact that they were granted a legal business license in 2009 at the San Jose location after the enactment of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008," Torres told Fusco and Ogumoro.

The lawmaker also said that three months prior to the departure of former Zoning Administrator Steve Tilley, the Zoning Office has yet to take action and change the Oleai/San Jose village residential designation to village-commercial due to the many business establishments in the area.

"Please use your common sense and rescind your Notice of Violation and allow Servino & Associates to continue doing business, and to continue paying taxes, and to continue serving our island community with their legitimate services," Torres added.

## Guerrero in car accident, arrested for alleged DUI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Businessman and former Retirement Fund board of trustees chair Juan Pan T. Guerrero was recently involved in a car collision and was arrested for allegedly driving under the influence of alcohol.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Eric David confirmed the incident yesterday, saying the case has been forwarded to the Office of the Attorney General.

Guerrero

*Saipan Tribune* tried to contact Guerrero for comments, but he did not answer his cell phone. His lawyer, Edward Arriola Sr., was not available for comment as he is off-island.

Sources disclosed that Guerrero's vehicle figured in a collision with another car along Middle Road in Gualo Rai at 9pm last March 4.

Guerrero was allegedly found speeding and under the influence of alcohol. He allegedly refused to undergo a breathalyzer test.

He was then booked and detained at the Department of Corrections. It was not clear when he was released from DOC.

Sources said no one was injured in the accident and that both vehicles had slight to moderate damage.

Guerrero was among the four gubernatorial candidates in last November's general election.

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How well to you know tourism in the Northern Mariana Islands? Check one answer, fill out this original form, and drop it off to the Marianas Visitors Authority in Oleai.

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The 2010 Saipan Marathon, along with the half-marathon and 10K, was held on March 6. Approximately how many runners participated in this year's event?

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**HINT:** The answer is in a previous edition of Tourism Tuesday.

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

# Probable cause found to charge suspect in fatal assault

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A CNMI Superior Court judge found probable cause yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against Shane Jonathan Hocog in the fatal assault of a man in Kagman.

Associate Judge David Wiseman ordered the 22-year-old Hocog to answer the charges of murder in the second degree, voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and battery, and assault and battery.

Wiseman set the arraignment for March 22 at 9am.

At the preliminary hearing, police officer Joseph Magofna and detective Simon Manacop told the court how they conducted their investigation in the beating of Larry Gonzales.

Gonzales, a 37-year-old Filipino male, was pronounced dead on March 4 at 4:45pm due to severe head injury. He had been comatose since being taken to the Commonwealth Health Center on March 1.

Hocog

The autopsy conducted by Guam chief medical examiner Aurelio Espinola indicated that Gonzales died due to brain contusion and laceration.

Police arrested Hocog on March 4. Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $100,000 cash bail for his temporary release.

Detective Manacop stated in his report that a disturbance near Kagman High School was reported to the Department of Public Safety on March 1 at 5:35pm.

When a police officer arrived at the scene, medics were already there, attending to Gonzales who was sitting on the ground. Gonzales had blood on his face and his left cheek was swollen.

The officer learned that a man had punched the victim in the face, causing him to fall back and hit his head on the concrete pavement. The victim lost consciousness in the process.

A female juvenile who witnessed the incident claimed that the suspect was Hocog, her boyfriend, who was possibly jealous of Gonzales.

Manacop said that in a later interview with the juvenile at her residence in Kagman, she told police that Hocog was actually her former boyfriend. She said they broke up about five months ago and that she later met Gonzales, who became her boyfriend. The juvenile said she ended her relationship with Gonzales a month ago.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher represented the government at yesterday's hearing. Assistant public defender Richard Miller represented Hocog.

## 120-plus kids on Head Start wait-list

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A few more months remain before the end of the school year, yet more than 120 children are still waiting to be accepted into the Public School System's Head Start program.

Fifty more students have been added to the 70 that have been on the list since September when classes started, said Head Start director Keiko Yamagata Friday.

She said this significant increase is prompting PSS to seek more funds that would allow the program to increase its enrollment cap.

Currently, the program is authorized to serve only 462 children, based on the annual funding assistance of $1.7 million.

Yamagata told the Board of Education Friday about the submission of a grant application that seeks 32 additional enrollees for the program next school year. The application will compete for the $199,000 funding allocated by American Reinvestment Recovery Act to territories and insular areas.

The funding will be used for program operation and the hiring of two teachers, one house visitor, and a family advocate.

The expanded enrollment will cover three areas where there is a high number of children on the wait list: San Antonio, Dandan, and Tanapag.

Of the 30 applicants on the San Antonio wait list, there are 20 who are eligible for enrollment next school year, Yamagata said.

In Dandan, seven children are eligible while Tanapag has five. These 12 children are being eyed for home-based service.

Of the 32 proposed new enrollees, 20 will be served full-day terms, while the remaining 12 will have half-days.

Yamagata said the 20 children eyed for full-day sessions could be housed in the unused Head Start Center in Chalan Kanoa.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that PSS Head Start's application last year for additional funding was rejected as a result of a lack of data.

"The first time we drafted that application, we weren't awarded, but they gave us what the strengths and weaknesses [of our applications] were and how we can improve them," she said.

This time, Yamagata is optimistic that the grant application will be approved.

She said the significant increase in children wanting to be included in the program is due to an increased awareness of parents and families about the benefits of preschool for their children.

Yamagata said it has been proven that kids who have preschool experience are more prepared and have more confidence relating to children their age when they start kindergarten and/or grade school.

She said that these kids know more about the learning environment and the routines and expectations in the classroom than those without preschool experience.

There are 12 Head Start Centers on Saipan, Tinian and Rota, serving 462 children. In previous years, the CNMI was permitted to serve 579 kids.

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# Rough conditions at American Samoa prisons

**PAGO PAGO, American Samoa,** (Samoa News/PIR)—In its annual Human Rights report, the U.S. State Department voiced concerns over unresolved problems with poor prison conditions in Samoa such as overcrowding, although some improvements were made last year.

The report covers human rights conditions worldwide in 2009 and was released Thursday in Washington D.C. by Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton who said the report is not a policy-making document, it's a predicate, and a foundation upon which policies are shaped and guided.

Clinton said the report is a starting point and not the end.

The Human Rights report says the Samoa government generally respected the human rights of its citizens in 2009, but "prison conditions remained poor with prison facilities nearly a century old".

"Only basic provisions were made with respect to food, water, and sanitation. Cell lighting and ventilation remained poor; lights were turned on only from dusk until nine in the evening. Some but not all individual cells had toilet facilities," the report says.

The Tafaigata women's prison had five cells (approximately 15 feet by nine feet) that held four to six inmates per cell. Bathroom facilities were in separate rooms. Physical conditions, including ventilation and sanitation, generally were better in the women's prison than in the men's Tafaigata prison, it says.

According to the report, some juveniles were held with adults but construction work at the Oloamanu Juvenile Center was completed by year's end, and the facility held a limited number of juveniles.

Additionally, physical conditions at the juvenile center were generally better than those for adults, but there were unconfirmed reports of problems with food, clothing, and the water supply.

Although exact numbers were not available, the federal report says that at year's end both the men's and women's prisons had more inmates than they were originally designed to hold.

At year's end there were approximately 300 inmates at the Tafaigata men's and women's prisons, the Oloamanu Juvenile Center, and Vaiaata Prison combined, most of whom were incarcerated in the Tafaigata facilities, it says.

## ADA

*From Page 1*

Ada wrote to key officials of First Hawaiian Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Guam, and Bank Pacific, which are members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp.

His letter posed six questions to determine the obstacles associated with ensuring that small businesses in the CNMI have access to required resources, including the number of those who applied for an SBA loan through these banks, within the last three years.

Ada also asked how these banks have partnered with SBA to promote their programs within the banks' branches in the CNMI.

Fred Camacho, branch manager of Bank Pacific, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the bank will be responding to Ada's letter.

Officials of the three other banks did not return *Saipan Tribune*'s call for comments as of press time.

Ada said there are excess deposits that are not being lent in the CNMI.

As of Dec. 31, 2009, the average loan-to-deposit ratio of all licensed banks in the CNMI is only 0.3 to 1, the Commerce secretary said.

"Although it is the burden of the government to ensure that programs and planning are in place and aimed to promote economic growth within our islands, a large portion of the solution to economic recovery rests with the financial sector's willingness to lend resources required for businesses to thrive," Ada told bank officials.

Ada also asked the banks about their plans, if any, to promote SBA lending programs to applicants.

"What percentage of your current loan portfolio are loans made to small businesses, as defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration? What percentage of your existing business loans has been made to businesses within the first two years of their operations?" Ada asked the banks.

His last question asked about the banks' primary concerns for making a small business loan to applicants, should they opt to take advantage of an SBA loan that guarantees 90 percent of the loan.

"As my office works toward ensuring that financial institutions operating in the CNMI do their part to aid in our economic recovery efforts, I sincerely hope that the apparent trend of CNMI lending practices to small businesses shifts to a more favorable and equitable relationship," Ada added.

## OAG

*From Page 1*

the results of its investigation into, among others, allegations that Fernandez changed the grades of some students. The results were not made public.

After a two-hour executive session with the OAG representatives, the seven-member board decided to wait for the results of the probe conducted by its own legal fact finding body. The results are expected Tuesday next week.

Board committee chair Andrew Orsini said the board cannot render a sound decision without the results of the board's own investigation.

"We're still in the continuing process of reviewing the result itself [from OAG]…and we're also going to receive another report from our fact-finding legal counsel team in conjunction with the same report that we have but in a different aspect of investigation," Orsini said.

Besides the alleged changing of grades, Fernandez is also being investigated over some personnel issues at the college.

Orsini declined to disclose the OAG's findings.

However, he hinted that the board may look at providing the suspended president the opportunity to comment on the findings.

"We are set to receive by Tuesday the other report that is also pending for us to review and, from there, the board will set a certain date whether we will give Dr. Fernandez the opportunity to substantiate the claims that these reports are provided to us," Orsini said.

Lawyers from the Cabot Mantanona, LLP law firm comprise the board's investigating team.

### No rush

The board began the meeting at 3:41pm yesterday and went into executive session at 4:15pm. Board chair Janet Han King called for a recess 6:18pm, with the intent to resume the meeting Tuesday noon next week.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Northern Marianas College regents Charles Cepeda and Malua Peter raise concerns about the hiring of new lawyers during yesterday's Board of Regents meeting at the college's As Terlaje campus.

King said the board does not want to rush its decision on Fernandez.

"The report was presented to us but beyond that I cannot comment [on the findings]. We have more facts to go over and we have limited time. The facts are all in that report and we still have more briefings to go. We don't want to make rush decisions," she told reporters, adding that the board appreciates the continued patience of the public.

Fernandez has been suspended since Jan. 12, 2010.

### Legal issues

As soon as the board meeting was called to order, regents Charles Cepeda and Malua Peter raised concerns about the hiring of new lawyers without the full action of the board.

They conceded that the matter was discussed in a series of previous meetings but said no formal action was voted on by the full board. Both expressed surprise upon learning that a contract had already been signed for Cabot Mantanona by the interim president Lorraine Cabrera.

King said she takes full responsibility for not personally informing the two regents about the hiring of the Guam-based law firm without the full board's action.

She pointed out, though, that the contract went through legal channels and followed all procedures for emergency hiring.

King emphasized that the law firm was hired to focus solely on Fernandez's case while Jesse Borja remains the college's counsel and handles all legal matters for the board and the president.

Regent Orsini said the issue was merely a misunderstanding among members.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that NMC has approved a $25,000 contract for the law firm's short-term service. Borja receives about $40,000 for his service every year.

Besides some college officials and a few members of the public, Fernandez's lawyer, Brien Sers Nicholas, was also present in yesterday's meeting.

## FITIAL

*From Page 1*

tion status of aliens during the two-year transition period.

"Indeed, it would be illogical and unjust to allow aliens to remain in the CNMI for up to two years by virtue of their Commonwealth status without a mechanism for administering that status," Buckingham said in his eight-page legal opinion.

Fitial and Inos pointed out that USCIS has not issued final regulations with respect to foreign workers or foreign investors in the CNMI.

"Instead, USCIS has issued a questions and answers document setting forth their policy views with respect to matters they believe might be subject to federal regulations," said Fitial and Inos.

USCIS is one of the component agencies of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The Fitial administration's statement came after U.S. Interior Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta defended Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown's statements at a forum where she stated, among other things, that the CNMI Department of Labor lost its authority to revoke umbrella permits when the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009.

USCIS also issued this weekend a guidance memorandum that supports Brown's statements on umbrella permits and alien employment issues.

The Fitial administration said the employment of aliens in the CNMI under the CNRA is a shared responsibility of the federal and CNMI governments.

USCIS earlier said this is now a matter of federal law.

Fitial and Inos issued yesterday their own question-and-answers similar to the format issued by USCIS during the weekend, so that the differences between the federal government and the CNMI on federalization issues can be easily understood.

"In addition, many Commonwealth employers already have approved employment contracts in place with the foreign workers they employ. All of these employment arrangements must be honored and cannot be disturbed by federal officials," they said.

The administration said the preemption provision in the CNRA does not preempt the labor laws of the Commonwealth—broadly defined as those laws regulating the terms of employment between employers and employees, including those specific provisions relating to the employment of foreign workers such as the provision for medical expenses—that do not conflict with any provisions of federal law.

"In short, CNMI can and will exercise the same powers with respect to its workforce as are exercised by the states. The views of the Commonwealth on this preemption issue are set forth more fully in the opinion of the CNMI Attorney General dated March 15, 2010," Fitial and Inos said.

### 'Inconsistent'

Fitial and Inos said holders of umbrella permits may not work "for any private employer in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011" as asserted by USCIS.

"This is inconsistent with the provisions of CNMI law under which the permits were issued and agreed to by the worker, student, investor, or other recipient of such a permit. In the case of a foreign worker, for example, who received an umbrella permit under category 240K, the worker is required to return to the CNMI Department of Labor in the event that he or she is no longer employed, for whatever reason, and seek permission to pursue other employment within a limited period of time," they said.

USCIS earlier said in the case of the category 240K Foreign National Worker Permit, aliens are authorized to work for any private sector employer in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011.

The Fitial administration said investors are not permitted to work for any private employer, and may work only in the establishment in which they have invested.

It said students may not work for any private employer, but may work only part-time and in accordance with the limitations set out in Commonwealth law and regulations.

### 'No conflict'

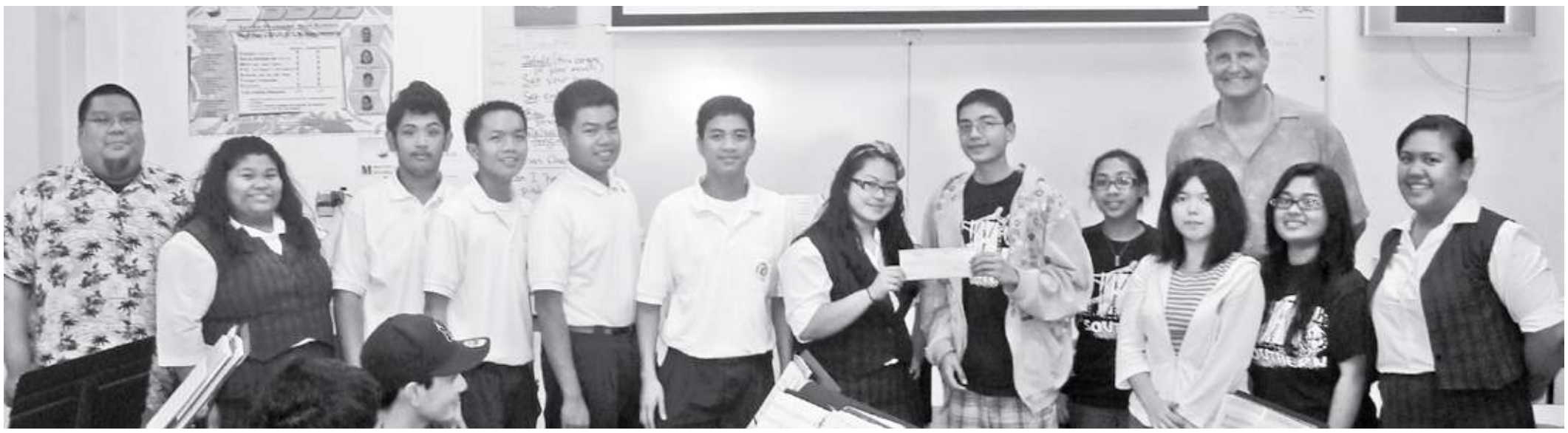
Buckingham said there is no actual conflict between the CNRA and the CNMI's administration and revocation of Commonwealth immigration status during the transition period.

First, it is possible for the CNMI to administer and revoke Commonwealth immigration status without violating the CNRA because the CNRA preserves Commonwealth status, which is dependent on compliance with Commonwealth law, during the transition period.

Second, CNMI administration and revocation of Commonwealth immigration status during the transition period would not be an obstacle to the CNRA's purposes and objectives.

This, according to the attorney general, is because: (1) border security would not be adversely affected; (2) the Commonwealth's foreign national worker program would be phased-out in an orderly manner; (3) federal immigration responsibilities would be phased-in in an orderly manner; (4) potential adverse economic and fiscal effects of phasing-out the Commonwealth's foreign national worker program would be minimized by the orderly transition; and (5) the Commonwealth's potential for future economic and business growth would be maximized by the orderly transition.

Deputy Labor Secretary Jacinta M. Kaipat said earlier that the names of some 300 foreigners are ready to be referred "soon" to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation, while some 200 umbrella permits issued to foreigners have so far been revoked.



**MOUNT CARMEL DONATION**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club donated $300 to Saipan Southern High School's Manta Band for their trip to Carnegie Hall this April. Pictured are the main cast and crew for the Theatre Club's last production, *A Winter's Tale,* Theatre Club adviser Iggy Benavente, officers of Saipan Southern High School's Manta Band, and the Manta Band's conductor, William Dewitt. Mount Carmel School's Theatre Club is working on its next production, *What's Going On?*, which is centered on life in the CNMI during the '60s and '70s. *What's Going On?* will premiere on April 31 and May 1, 2010, at Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

# 3 who allegedly sold alcohol to minors hauled to court

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Three female store cashiers appeared in court yesterday morning for their preliminary hearing on charges of selling alcohol to minors.

Maria Christina Cabrera Cabrera pleaded not guilty and Richard Miller was appointed to be her public defender.

Xioa Mei Ling and Yu Zhoung Ping were ordered to provide their own attorneys. At the hearing, both women were given two weeks to find a lawyer or provide another explanation for failing to do so.

The three were arrested by the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Task Force for selling alcohol to minors during its alcohol beverage control operation on Feb. 26, 2010.

Cabrera works as a cashier for the Fresh-Up Market in Garapan. Ping works as a cashier for the Yu-Ling Store in Chalan Kiya. Ping is a manager for the Star Store in Chalan Piao.

On the evening of Feb. 26, 2010, the EUDL Task Force visited 20 business establishments that sell alcohol and arrested the three for violating alcohol sale laws. The task force also issued citations to the three establishments where the three cashiers work.

This was the second joint operation conducted by the EUDL Task Force. The initial compliance checks operation on Dec. 28, 2009, resulted in two arrests out of 14 stores inspected. The licenses for two establishments were subsequently suspended by operation of law.

The EUDL is composed of the Department of Public Safety, the Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division, the Office of the Attorney General, the Division of Youth Services, and the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

# Store employee pleads not guilty to 'ice' trafficking

A store employee pleaded not guilty to charges that he was engaged in trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Yuhua Wang, 32, also known as "Old Man," pleaded not guilty to the information charging him with trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Assistant public defender Richard Miller served as counsel for Wang.

According to a police report, members of the Drug Enforcement Task Force and the Criminal Investigation Bureau managed to purchase $200 worth of "ice" from Wang using a "confidential source" at the parking lot of the Riviera Hotel in Finasisu on Feb. 27.

Later that same day, DETF and CIB conducted another purchase of $200 worth of "ice" from Wang using the same "confidential source" inside No. Wang College Store in Finasisu, where Wang works.

The authorities then searched No. Wang College Store last Feb. 28 and seized "ice" paraphernalia.

Wang was arrested on March 1. A $30,000 cash bail was imposed for his temporary release. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Seized Assets from Police Departments, IRS, U.S. Treasury & Secret Service
And others in violation of laws. Items bought from seized assets auctions will go up for bid with other merchandise which includes the majority of items.
HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:
Certified solitaire diamonds from 1 to 7 carats. Many diamond stud earrings. A huge selection of TANZANITE jewelry from 1- to 13 carats. Rolex watches. Large selection of topaz, aquamarine, tourmaline & opal jewelry. 51 carat diamond & ruby necklace. Swiss made gold watches. ESTATE jewelry, Bracelets, bandlies, earrings, necklaces, rings, etc...
HUNDREDS OF PIECES TO CHOOSE FROM
ONE DAY ONLY!
100's of ITEMS
FREE ADMISSION
Saipan World Resort, Beach Road, Susupe
234-5900
TERMS: Cash, Check, Visa, Mastercard, AMEX. Auction not affiliated with any government agency or entity. 15% buyers premium plus sales tax will be added to hammer price. All items subject to error, omissions and withdrawal.
TOTAL VALUE: $2 Million
Roberto Galleries ~ State of Washington Auctioneer License #2506
Sunday, March 28, 2010
Auction: 12 Noon • Preview: 11am

Attention All Employers!
We are students of the Northern Mariana Trade Institute looking for jobs. By attending the institute we are learning how to work and be responsible in the workplace. We are also learning various skills but need an employer such as you to demonstrate that we can be first rate employees.

We are ready, willing, and able to work.
Please give us the chance to prove this. When you need an employee regardless of position:
Please call the institute at 235-6684 and ask for Mr. Vic Cepeda.

## ZONING OFFICE TO HOLD WORKSHOPS

The Zoning Office will be holding workshops to promote educational awareness of the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law, as well as to seek comments on how the law is working. These workshops are in line with the Zoning Board's goal of addressing the issues and concerns expressed by the community, private sector and the legislature as it prepares for the law's review and update. The public consultation and information campaign will continue over the next month in order to obtain feedback required to update the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law. Following are the dates, times, and target group for each meeting within this month:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wednesday, March 17, 2010 | 9:00 to 10:00am | Sign makers/ Building owners |
| Wednesday, March 17, 2010 | 2:00 to 3:00pm | Document Handlers/ Consultants |
| Wednesday, March 24, 2010 | 9:00 to 10:00am | New Business Developers |
| Wednesday, March 24, 2010 | 2:00 to 3:00pm | Surveyors |
| Wednesday, March 31, 2010 | 9:00 to 10:00am | Engineers/ Architects |
| Wednesday, March 31, 2010 | 2:00 to 3:00pm | Adult Businesses |

All workshops will be held at the Zoning Office conference room, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan. Anyone with questions about the workshops may contact the Zoning Office by phone at 234-9661 or by e-mail at staff @zoning.gov.mp.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chairperson

# NMC's tilapia workshop to feature international aquaculture expert

The Northern Marianas College will be hosting a former president of the World Aquaculture Society at an upcoming workshop focused on enhancing tilapia production and management within the CNMI's aquaculture industry.

Dr. Kevin Fitsimmons, a professor and environmental science extension agent at the University of Arizona, has played key roles in ensuring the continued growth of aquaculture throughout much of Southeast Asia. He holds an adjunct professorship at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and is a consultant to China's Department of Agriculture on the development of tilapia production and processing.

He also served as president of the U.S. Aquaculture Society from 1999 to 2000 and then went global in 2004 and was elected president of the World Aquaculture Society, a global community of aquaculture specialists that organizes annual conferences for the spread of new and improved information and technology. Most recently, he served as chairman of Aquaculture Without Frontiers, a global charity that supports small-scale sustainable aquaculture projects in developing countries.

"Since most of our local aquatic farmers have invested in tilapia production, we thought it best to bring out an expert with the species," said NMC's Aquaculture & Fisheries Development Program team leader Michael Ogo. "Dr. Fitzsimmons has dedicated much of his life to the study and improvement of tilapia production and harvest."

The workshop, titled "Tilapia and its Role in Sustainable Aquaculture Systems in the Pacific," will be held on March 23, 2010, from 7:30am to 5pm at the Napu Room of the Pacific Islands Club. It is sponsored by NMC's Cooperative Research Extension & Education Service, the Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program, and the CNMI Aquaculture Producers Association.

"We are extremely fortunate to have someone of Dr. Fitzsimmon's caliber visit us to share his extensive knowledge in tilapia production with our local aquatic farmers," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera.

For more information or to register, contact Michael Ogo at 234-5498 Ext. 1708 or michaelo@nmcnet.edu. Interested individuals are advised to register in advance as seating is limited to 50 participants. ***(PR)***

Two children look at an NMC-CRESS tilapia aquarium.

NMC

# 'Austerity bill will cost PSS $11.5M, over 250 positions'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education claims the Public School System will lose $11.5 million in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds if the proposed austerity measure killed last week is introduced again and enacted.

During Friday's special meeting, board members said the austerity proposal would violate the "maintenance of effort" requirement of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's SFSF for both PSS and the Northern Marianas College.

The consensus prompted the board to officially adopt a position to oppose the plan—one day after House lawmakers killed the austerity proposal. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Monday said the administration plans to reintroduce the measure.

Maintenance of effort, MOE, is a federal requirement that requires grant recipients to maintain a certain level of local fiscal effort to be eligible for full participation in federal grant funding.

PSS stands to receive a total of $36.4 million in SFSF money while NMC will get $9 million. PSS already got the initial $23 million late last year.

If the austerity measure is enacted, this will result in PSS losing $11.5 million in SFSF funds that have yet to be distributed to the system, board members said.

Over $17 million in educational federal grants may also disappear in Fiscal Year 2011, board members added, while MOE violations will disqualify PSS from getting $19 million in FY 2011 Jobs for Main Street Act funding.

JSMA provides resources to save and create education positions, spur much-needed school construction, and aid college students.

In total, any MOE violations will result in a net loss of $47.5 million for PSS, board members said.

The administration earlier said that austerity holidays and unpaid holidays would yield a total of under $3 million savings for the CNMI government.

"The inequity of this in a cost-benefit analysis is staggering; a net loss of $47.5 million versus a net gain of $3 million is not in keeping with sound economic reasoning," board members said.

## 'Jeopardize 250 teachers, staff positions'

The board disclosed that, besides losing millions in federal grants, over 250 positions for teachers and support staff would be affected because their salaries are being paid using federal grants.

In addition, the board said the austerity proposal would raise serious public policy and constitutional implications.

Under the proposal, teachers and teacher aides who work on 190-day contracts are not exempted from the austerity holidays, which are a major concern for PSS.

## 'Disappointed on gov's remarks'

Board member Herman T. Guerrero expressed disappointment with Fitial's remarks on the fate of the austerity measure in the House.

"I think it's disappointing to hear that the governor is saying that lawmakers should not listen to the 'concerns' of the people," he said, adding that the overwhelming support of parents and teachers in the House session is an indication that there really is a concern that must be heard by the legislators.

Guerrero also described the administration's new budget numbers as "fictitious," citing the lack of communication relating to the immediate drop in projected government revenue—from $150 million to $137 million—for this fiscal year.

"It is a known fact that the government incurred a deficit of $13 million in the first quarter of this year. Logic dictates that a similar deficit is projected for the second quarter. The estimated $4 to $5 million saved by the austerity holidays would only serve to provide a cash solution sufficient to fund one payday for the government," the board said, adding that the government should look for solutions that will have a lasting effect on government payroll and operations.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-DOC-026**

**CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"GUMA HUSTISIA AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"**

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE GUMA HUSTISIA ON THURSDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 9:00AM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**
**RFP10-DOC-027**

**CLOSING DATE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 2010 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.**

**"SENATE CHAMBER AIR CONDITIONING RETROFIT"**

COPIES OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE - CNMI ARRA OFFICE, 1ST FLOOR CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE HONORABLE JESUS P. MAFNAS MEMORIAL BUILDING ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17TH, 2010 BEGINNING AT 1:30PM.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE IT IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW.

/s/ MICHAEL ADA, Secretary of Commerce
/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, Acting Secretary of DPW
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, Director, P&S

# High court's Summer Pre-Law Program now open

The CNMI Supreme Court announced yesterday that applications for the Summer Pre-Law Program 2010 are now available. The intensive program is designed for those interested in applying to law school and will be held from July 5 to July 23, 2010, at the Guma' Hustisia.

The Pre-Law Program, which started in 1991, will familiarize participants with the rigorous demands of the first year of law school. Robert Desiderio, former dean of the University of New Mexico School of Law, and professor Rose Cuison-Villazor of Hofstra University School of Law will serve as instructors for the program. Desiderio has previously taught in the program and was instrumental in getting participants to attend and graduate from law school. Villazor, who grew up on Saipan and graduated from Mount Carmel School, will be teaching a course in Property Law.

In addition to attending lectures, participants will engage in a series of activities designed to increase their critical thinking and analytical skills. These include a legal research and writing class, a moot court competition, and the opportunity to receive valuable insight and advice from volunteer attorney mentors. A workshop on the Law School Admissions Test and law school admission process will also be conducted. Together, these activities will help participants develop the skills necessary to attend law school and complete the challenging first-year curriculum. The program has produced at least 25 lawyers.

Attorney Lucy Blanco-Maratita, a 1994 participant, said, "The Summer Pre-Law Program was instrumental in cementing my desire to go on to law school. It gave me not only a small taste of what law classes were like, and that they were doable, but also the encouragement from the professors gave me the courage to hang on to my dream of going to law school."

Attorney Vince Seman, a 2002 participant, added, "The fundamental skills I learned in the program helped me start ahead of the curve and stay there throughout law school."

Justice John A. Manglona, Blanco-Maratita, and Seman head the program's steering committee. The CNMI Bar Association, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, and the Supreme Court are the principal sponsors of the program.

The application form is available online at www.justice.gov.mp and the submission deadline is May 5, 2010. Enrollment is limited. For more information, contact Martha Mendiola at the Supreme Court at (670) 236-9710 or e-mail supreme.court@justice.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

**RFP10: CDD-065**
Submission: March 31, 2010 • Time: 2:00 P.M.

**"PRIVATIZATION OF CALL-A-RIDE PROGRAM"**

The RFP package may be obtained at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply in Lower Base, Saipan during regular working hours.

**Any questions or inquiries for clarification** is due no later than the close of business, **March 19, 2010**, and should be directed to **Ms. Pamela C. Sablan, Executive Director at (670) 664-7000 or e-mailed to psablan.cnmicdd@gmail.com.**

**This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.**

**/s/ PAMELA C. SABLAN**, Executive Director, CDD
**/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN**, Director, P&S

# Nursing assistant program eyed for SSHS students

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A new program that could help address the island's future need for health care services and providers will be offered in one of the biggest public high schools on Saipan next school year.

Saipan Southern High School vice principal Jessie Tudela disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* last week that the nursing assistant program will soon be offered on campus as part of the school's career technical education.

The elective course will be in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, which will provide the students the necessary hands-on training at the public hospital.

Tudela said students who enroll in the program will be required to undergo 120 hours of clinical training at the Commonwealth Health Center, scheduled on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Tudela said a formal agreement will soon be inked between the school and DPH.

He is optimistic that students will gain valuable training that would be much needed by the community.

The nursing assistant program focuses on teaching the necessary knowledge and skills needed for an entry-level nurse assistant and it presents basic principles and procedures of patient care.

Besides the Northern Marianas College, which has an associate degree in nursing, two other postsecondary institutions offer nursing programs to both local and foreign students: the Emmanuel College with its 11-month licensed practical nursing program and University of Loyola, which offers a bachelor degree in nursing.

Students from all three institutions obtain their clinical training at the hospital. Majority of their graduates who pass the national licensure examination are now employed at CHC.

To date, the hospital has 235 nurses, 75 percent of whom are nonresidents. By offering the nursing assistant program, it is expected that high school students would be able to help fill the hospital's future personnel needs.

The public hospital is currently under a state of emergency due to the lack of both medical health providers and quality services.

Both Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez and Governor Benigno R. Fitial said last week that the emergency declaration would stay a bit longer, especially now that federalization is affecting the hospital's hiring process.

Under U.S. immigration regulations, only those who could acquire a U.S. working visa could work at the hospital.

# Kilili, Miller join 19 others to introduce jobs bill

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Responding to local government layoffs—and the threat of lay-offs—in the Northern Mariana Islands and around the country, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) has joined with a group of prominent Democratic members, led by George Miller (D-CA), to introduce the Local Jobs for America Act.

The bill targets $75 billion directly to municipalities over a two-year period to help them maintain essential services. The money will allow municipal level governments to hold off planned cuts or to hire back workers who have already been laid-off because of tight budgets.

"Our people are struggling; our families are struggling," said Sablan. "But by investing this money at the grassroots level, I think we can help people keep their jobs and help those who have lost their jobs get back on the payroll. I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of this legislation, and I know that the Northern Marianas will benefit from it."

The bill, H.R. 4812, invests directly in eligible municipal governments and in nonprofit community organizations, and gives them the authority to decide how best to use the funds to maintain essential services.

Introduced on Wednesday, March 10, the measure has broad support from the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Counties.

Twenty-four billion dollars of the total funding would help states and territories support 250,000 education jobs, put 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat, and retain, rehire, and hire firefighters.

H.R. 4812 would also fund approximately 50,000 private-sector, on-the-job training positions to help small businesses put people back to work. Workers will be able to acquire core job skills and important work experience while working for private employers in their own communities.

In all the bill is expected to create 1,000,000 jobs nationwide.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) and chair George Miller (D-CA) are working together on jobs legislation to help struggling local governments retain workers providing essential public services and to provide on-the-job training in the private sector for workers in need of jobs. The lawmakers introduced H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act, on March 10.

The new jobs bill comes on the heels of the HIRE Act, H.R. 2847, passed by the House on March 4, which also aims to put people to work. The HIRE Act provides a one-year holiday on Social Security tax for both employers and newly hired workers who have been unemployed. That amounts to a 6.2 percent reduction in the cost of hiring for the employer and a 6.2 percent increase in wages for the new worker. Employers who keep the new hires on the payroll for a full year will also receive a $1,000 income tax credit.

In the Northern Mariana Islands the cost of the $1,000 credit will be covered over to the CNMI Treasury from the U.S. Treasury—a provision Sablan and other territorial representatives insisted be in the bill.

A vote on the motion to end debate on the HIRE Act is scheduled in the U.S. Senate for 5:30pm on Monday, March 15. ***(PR)***

# Firefighter in hot water for alleged bar brawl

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A firefighter and another man were arrested for allegedly beating up a man during an argument over a joke at a nightclub in Garapan early Sunday morning.

Firefighter Dewain Borja 41, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, while Anthony D. Palacios, 22, was apprehended for assault and battery.

Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed a $6,000 cash bail for Borja's temporary release and $1,000 cash bail for Palacios. Preliminary hearing was set for March 23.

Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that an off-duty police officer called the Department of Public Safety on Sunday at 1:06am to report an assault and battery incident at The Flair Bar.

Borja

Palacios

When a police officer arrived, a group of people was seen holding the victim, Manuel Villagomez, who had an inch-long gash in the head. Medics were summoned.

Camacho said the bar's bouncer told police that he saw the victim exiting the door, followed by Anthony and Jack Palacios.

The bouncer said Villagomez had made a joke to Borja that resulted in their argument. Borja then allegedly urged the two Palacios to slap and punch Villagomez. As Anthony and Jack Palacios walked toward Villagomez, Borja hit the victim on the head with a beer bottle.

The two Palacios then allegedly jumped on Villagomez. The victim fell onto the balcony, breaking it down. The suspects then allegedly started punching the victim.

Borja and Anthony Palacios were arrested. Jack Palacios was not arrested.

DPS spokesman Eric David said the fight occurred over a pole dance contest. He did not elaborate.

# Umbrella permits: The CNMI and federal perspectives

This month's general membership lunch meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will be focusing on the differing perspectives of the CNMI and federal government on the so-called umbrella permits.

The meeting—to be held at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret this Thursday, March 18, from 11:30am to 1:30pm—will feature the topic "The Umbrella Permit: CNMI & Federal Perspectives." It will be presented by U.S. Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown; David Gulick, district director, U.S. Homeland Security's Citizenship and Immigration Service; and CNMI Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

"This timely presentation is open to the public and will be an invaluable opportunity for both employers and employees to learn about the two opposing perspectives regarding the CNMI umbrella permit and whether the CNMI Department of Labor or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has current authority over all nonresident workers in the CNMI," said Eric Plinske, SHRM CNMI Chapter president.

Brown and Gulick will be presenting the perspective of the federal government while Buckingham will be presenting the perspective of the CNMI government.

"Both sides will explain the rationale for their perspectives and any possible consequences for individuals that do not follow their recommendations. The audience will then be allowed to ask questions to the speakers," said Plinske.

The seminar includes lunch and any handouts. The cost is $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited so reserve one by contacting Polly Deleon Guerrero, SHRM CNMI Chapter vice president, at the PIC at 237-5122 or e-mailing Plinske at ericplinske@yahoo.com.

Human resource and management professionals who are not members of SHRM are encouraged to join. Applications can be obtained at the meeting or by e-mailing Plinske. ***(SHRM)***


**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS**
**CUC-IFB-10-022**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for the urgent supply 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS.

Emergency generator sets will be used to power the island of Rota, while CUC takes down existing generator sets for major engine overhaul and rehabilitation. All existing engines already overdue for overhauls and the power situation on Rota is very critical.

A site visit and pre-bid meeting is not planned, but bidders who wish to visit Rota power plant will be permitted with prior approval. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on part of the proposers due to a lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

The Scope-of-Work and Bid package will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested bidders, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until Wednesday, March 31, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a seal envelope marked **"IFB 10-022 "ROTA 3-PHASE TRANSFORMERS"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Room No. 4, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **Thursday, April 08, 2010 at 10:00 AM**, local time, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

Local Bidders (CNMI based business) will be required to submit a copy of a CNMI Business License upon notice of award of contract. Off-island Bidders (Non-CNMI based business) are excluded from the requirement of submitting a copy of a CNMI Business license upon notice of award of contract.

With respect to bidders' employment of labor as an element of a bid, the Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less that the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page — http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and wave any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquires must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM local time on **Monday, April 05, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr., Purchasing Officer via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Wallon Young. Deputy Director Power System Rehabilitation via email at wallon59@yahoo.com.

**/s/ ABE UTU MALAE**
Acting Executive Director

# Talented Golden Harvest students shine

The administrators, teachers and staff of Golden Harvest International School announced last week their school's winners in the recent PGFC Regional Competition, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School.

"We would like to extend our gratitude to all the people behind this competition, the organizers, judges and parents. Congratulations to all the winners and keep up the good work," the school said in a statement.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Golden Harvest International School students show off the medals and ribbons they won in the recent PGFC Regional Competition, held March 6, 2010, at Kagman Elementary School.

### K-2 DIVISION
### Choral Speaking
Gold — Aaron Esquivel, Mark Galang, Davean Gonzales, Kennedy Vila

### DUO
4th — Stephen Bartolo, Marione Corpus

### Dramatic Interpretation
Silver — Daphne Cruzat
Bronze — Faith Bocago

### Humorous Interpretation
Bronze — Raesyl Gerard Solis
4th — Vince Salvador

### 3-5 DIVISION
### Choral Speaking
4th Place — Allen James Aguilar, Mark Daniel Ibanez, Mathew LGuerrero, Angelo Kris Talens

### DUO
Silver — Mark Daniel Ibanez
Bronze — Allen James Aguilar, Mathew Guerrero, Angelo Kris Talens

### Reader's Forum Finals
5th — En Ming Cacdac

### Semi Finals
3rd — En Ming Cacdac

### Dramatic Interpretation
Silver — En Ming Cacdac

### FLIGHTS RESULT

### K-2 DIVISION
**Choral Speaking B**
3rd — Kennedy Vila, Davean Gonzales, Mark Galang, Aaron Esquivel
4th — Jewel Combinido, Hannah Lacap, Letis Taylor Romolor

### DUO-A
1st — Marione Corpus, Stephen Bartolo
4th — Jewel Combinido, Robin Alvarez
5th — Daphne Cruzat, Faith Bocago

### DUO – B
1st — Renz Fauni, Mark Galang
4th — Kennedy Vila, Davean Gonzales

### Dramatic Interp-A
1stSukey Wu

### Dramatic Interp – B
2nd — Daphne Cruzat
3rd — Faith Bocago

### Humorous Interpretation – A
3rd — Vince Salvador

### Humorous Interpretation - B
3rd — Raesyl Solis

### Reader's Forum – D
5th — Raesyl Solis

### 3-5 DIVISION

### DUO – A
3rd — Angelo Talens, Matthew Leon Guerrero

### DUO - B
2nd — Allen James Aguilar, Mark Daniel Ibanez

### Reader's Forum
2nd — En Ming Cacdac

### Dramatic Interpretation-B
2nd — Enming Cacdac

### Choral Speaking – B
1st — Matthew Leon Guerrero, Angelo Talens, Allen James Aguilar, Mark Ibanez

## Can you identify

THE NMI Council for the Humanities, in collaboration with the *Saipan Tribune*, is running a series of photographs in this section every Tuesday and is inviting the public to identify the persons or places featured in this section.

If you can identify the persons or places in the picture, please contact the NMI Council for the Humanities by telephone (235-4785), via email (photo@nmihumanities.org) or by visiting the Council's office located in Springs Plaza, Gualo Rai. These images are from the Council's Historic Photograph Database which is currently being developed to help document the history and cultures of the CNMI.

The persons featured in last week's photo have been identified as Vicente Iginoef and Delfina Warakai Iginoef. They were identified by Ignacia Piteg and Lino M. Olopai.

# $900M cross Pacific undersea cable eyed

## Would connect US, Australia, New Zealand

**MELBOURNE, Australia** (Radio Australia/PIR)—A group of businessmen wants to build an international fibre cable across the Pacific Ocean to bring unlimited broadband to New Zealand and Australia.

The 13,000-kilometer fibre optic cable would link New Zealand and Australia to the United States.

The New Zealand businessmen behind the project say the cable will deliver five times the capacity of the existing Southern Cross network.

The group is yet to raise the money for the Pacific Fiber project, which is expected to cost around $900 million.

One of Pacific Fiber's founders, Mark Rushworth, concedes it is an ambitious plan.

"It has many, many risks," he said.

The group says if it gets the funding it needs, the fiber cable could be operating by 2013.

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

### March 16, 1999

#### Termination urged for absenteeism

A proposal to terminate employees who are constantly absent was presented to the Board of Education as one of the policies the body should adopt in dealing with absenteeism in the Public School System. Board member Thomas Pangelinan, who heads the committee on instruction, assessment and accreditation, endorsed this policy proposal to cut down on employee's absences. In his proposal, employees who have accumulated 15 percent rate of absenteeism in a year are candidates for termination. For teachers, the basis of the percentage absenteeism will be based on the 190-day contract. While for the non-teaching positions, PSS will based it on the school calendar.

#### 'Change orders' blamed for school project delay

With two expenditure authorities for the project and change orders continue to pour in, the Public School System will not be able to open the Kagman Elementary School in August as scheduled. "We are heading for a disaster because we use the dirty word of 'change orders'," Board of Education member Anthony Pellegrino told colleagues during the recent CIP Committee meeting of PSS. He said the Kagman project has two expenditure authorities, the Department of Public Works control its $4 million budget, while the Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos was named for its $2.5 million funding.

### March 16, 2000

#### DLNR assists farmers in marketing produce

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has drawn up a plan to help farmers in efficiently marketing their agricultural produce and eventually expand its local production. DLNR has been meeting with farmers to find ways on how they can profitably sell their vegetables and fruits and eventually widen their market by tapping the hotels and restaurants. Starting this week, some of the farmers will be bringing their produce to Garapan Street Market every Thursday. However, beginning April 15, a Farmers Market will be held every Saturday morning from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in Susupe.

#### IT industry in NMI hinges on local immigration control

Northern Marianas has a houseful of advantages to lure software production facilities in Asia into relocating on the island but everything still depends on the Commonwealth's ability to maintain local control of immigration, according to a study funded by the Office of Insular Affairs. Software production is a labor-intensive industry which may require the importation of highly skilled technicians. The local labor force is not yet sufficiently trained in software production technology. Because of this, the CNMI government should be able to provide the proposed software production sector the ability to hire skilled and relatively inexpensive labor from Asia until local skills can be developed.

### March 16, 2001

#### CPA submits findings on fuel leak to DEQ

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is ready to embark on a massive cleanup operations as it explores ways to provide immediate solution to a contamination case caused by jet fuel leak at the Saipan International Airport. Ports authority officials underscored the need to completely and promptly address environmental protection issues surrounding the fuel leakage at the Saipan airport to prevent spread of suspected vapor contamination. CPA, through its consultant Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting, submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality reports on its extensive leak investigation including laboratory and investigation plans.

#### DPS to have new impound yard

The Department of Public Safety will soon have a new facility for confiscated vehicles as the government begins soliciting bids from private companies for the project. The new DPS Impound Yard/ Maintenance and Repair Facility will be erected at the former Air Force Radar Tracking Station in Marpi. The project calls for the renovation of one of the old PACBAR buildings for the exclusive use of DPS. The Department of Public Works said the scope of the work will be made available by its Technical Services Division to interested contractors on Monday. DPW will hold a pre-bid conference on Thursday next week at the project site in Marpi, while sealed bids will be publicly opened on April 3.

# Q&A Employment requirements imposed by CNMI law

No regulations have been issued by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service with respect to foreign workers or foreign investors in the Commonwealth. Instead, USCIS has issued a "Questions & Answers" document setting forth their policy views with respect to matters they believe might be subject to federal regulations. Some of the questions addressed by USCIS raise issues with respect to the extent to which CNMI laws continue to be enforced during the two-year period following Nov. 28,2009. The Commonwealth contends that the answers provided by USCIS to these questions are not consistent with the provisions of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of2008 ("CRNA"), PL 110-229. So that the differences between the federal Government and the CNMI on these issues can be easily understood, this we have set forth the same questions addressed in the USCIS document and provide the Commonwealth's answers to these questions.

Many of the questions addressed in the USCIS Q&A Document, such as those pertaining to the use of Form 1-9 CNMI and the enforcement of Section 274A of the INA, are exclusively matters of federal law. They do not affect the way that Commonwealth law is and will be enforced.

In addition, many Commonwealth employers already have approved employment contracts in place with the foreign workers they employ. All of these employment arrangements must be honored and cannot be disturbed by federal officials.

**Q. Is the employment authorization of aliens present in the CNMI a matter of federal law or of CNMI territorial law?**

**A.** The employment of aliens in the CNMI under the CRNA is a shared responsibility of the federal and CNMI governments. The CRNA applied the immigration laws of the United States to the CNMI, which means that various visa categories are available to workers, students, and investors to the same extent that they are available in other parts of the United States. In addition, the CRNA authorized the issuance of special regulations with respect to workers and investors, but no final regulations in these two areas have yet been issued by the Department of Homeland Security. The CNRA specifically preempted the immigration laws of the CNMI, which it defined as those "laws, provisions, or programs of the Commonwealth relating to the admission of aliens and the removal of aliens from the Commonwealth."

The preemption provision in the CNRA does not preempt the labor laws of the Commonwealth—broadly defined as those laws regulating the terms of employment between employers and employees, including those specific provisions relating to the employment of foreign workers such as the provision for medical expenses—that do not conflict with any provisions of federal law. In short, CNMI can and will exercise the same powers with respect to its workforce as are exercised by the States. The views of the Commonwealth on this preemption issue are set forth more fully in the Opinion of the CNMI Attorney General dated March 15,2010.

As recognized by the USCIS document, the CNRA contained specific provisions applicable to the two-year period following Nov. 28, 2009. During this period foreign workers are allowed to work based on the employment authorization that they had received under CNMI law before this transition date. These permits are called "umbrella permits" and were issued to those eligible workers who presented themselves in person to the CNMI Department of Labor and signed the permits reflecting their agreement to the terms of the permit. The permits clearly indicated that they could be revoked by the CNMI Department of Labor if the worker failed to comply with the relevant provisions of CNMI law. The USCIS document indicates that the Department of Homeland Security "fully recognizes employment authorization based on" this provision of the CNRA.

**Q. What is an "umbrella permit"?**

**A.** The Commonwealth provided to USCIS the listing and description of "umbrella permits" set forth in the USCIS document. As indicated, such permits were issued to various categories of persons other than workers, including certain immediate relatives, investors, students, and government employees.

**Q. As the holder of an umbrella permit, may I work in the CNMI under federal law?**

**A.** The holders of such permits may not work "for any private employer in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011" as asserted by USCIS. This is inconsistent with the provisions of CNMI law under which the permits were issued and agreed to by the worker, student, investor, or other recipient of such a permit. In the case of a foreign worker, for example, who received an umbrella permit under category 240k, the worker is required to return to the CNMI Department of Labor in the event that he or she is no longer employed, for whatever reason, and seek permission to pursue other employment within a limited period of time. In the event that the worker cannot find another job within the specified period of time, the umbrella permit will be revoked under CNMI law. Once the permit is revoked, the worker is subject to removal (or deportation) under the INA unless the worker can obtain a federal visa or conditional work permit (under DHS regulations that do not yet exist) which entitles the worker to remain in the Commonwealth.

Similarly, investors are not permitted to work for any private employer. They may work only in the establishment in which they have invested. And students may not work for any private employer. They may work only part-time and in accordance with the limitations set out in Commonwealth law and regulations.

**Q. My umbrella permit has two dates. Which one controls the length of my authorized employment?**

**A.** Both dates are important. No worker can continue to work in the CNMI until Nov. 27,2011 unless the worker has complied with the report-back date requirement. This is required both by the provisions of CNMI law under which the permit was issued and the conditions on the issuance of the permit to which the worker agreed. The "Next filing date to avoid revocation" means exactly what it says. It means that some aspect of the umbrella permit needs to be reexamined, and approved, by the CNMI Department of Labor, in the absence of which the permit will be revoked, with the consequences summarized above.

The federal government has no authority to change CNMI law in this respect, and the CNRA clearly indicated that the federal government would honor those permits issued by the CNMI before the transition date of Nov. 28,2009. In the absence of a transitional worker program of the kind under consideration, the only basis on which the worker would be entitled to remain in the CNMI (and avoid the risk of removal or deportation under the INA) would be if he or she could obtain an H visa or some other standard visa available under the INA. In the absence of such a legal basis for remaining in the CNMI, an employer who hires such a worker whose CNMI permit has been revoked, takes on the risk of employing an alien unauthorized to be in the CNMI even if the employer completes the Form 1-9 CNMI.

**Q. As an employer in the CNMI, do I need the approval of the CNMI DOL to hire the holder of an umbrella permit for new employment?**

**A.** This depends on the type of umbrella permit that has been issued. If the holder of an umbrella permit is the immediate relative of a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident (240D), then no approval is required. Similarly, the holders of240B, 240G, 240H, 240N and 2400 permits do not need prior approval, however all these categories of permit holders must comply with Commonwealth law. Holders of foreign national worker umbrella permits (240K) may not be employed without Department of Labor approval.

The Commonwealth disagrees with the USCIS answer to this question, and specifically the suggestion that there is no legal risk involved if the employer hires the holder of an umbrella permit without securing the approval of the CNMI Department of Labor. As indicated above, the employer needs to satisfy itself that the umbrella permit has not been revoked by the CNMI Department of Labor and that the department authorizes the terms under which the foreign worker is being employer. If the umbrella permit has been revoked, or if the employer does not seek the approval required under CNMI law, the employer will be violating CNMI law and may be subject to the sanctions provided under CNMI law. In addition, if the umbrella permit has been revoked, the worker may be subject to removal (or deportation) from the CNMI unless the worker has a federal visa or other permit issued under federal law or regulations authorizing the worker to remain in the CNMI.

**Q. Can an umbrella permit be extended or revoked?**

**A.** An umbrella permit cannot be extended beyond Nov. 27,2011 until the federal law is changed. The holder of a permit that has been revoked cannot continue to work or be employed anywhere in the Commonwealth after revocation.

**Q. As an umbrella permit holder, how can I obtain an immigration status that will allow me to remain in the CNMI after Nov. 27, 2011?**

**A.** Until the federal law is changed or the transition period is extended, a U.S. visa will be necessary. Currently it is quite difficult to get a federal visa unless you are an immediate relative of a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

**Q. Can holders of umbrella permits change employment without regard to existing employment contracts or to professional licensing requirements?**

**A.** All contractual and legal obligations under CNMI law can be enforced by Commonwealth authorities, even though they are not enforced by federal authorities.

**Q. Does this mean that if I hold an umbrella permit I cannot be removed from the CNMI until after Nov. 27,2011?**

**A.** The holder of a valid umbrella permit cannot be removed unless grounds for removal under U.S. law apply. The holder of a revoked umbrella permit can be removed and the Commonwealth will seek removal. US CIS recognizes in its answer to this question (as maintained by the CNMI) that an umbrella permit holder may be subject to removal from the Commonwealth if the status previously granted by the CNMI has expired or been revoked prior to Nov. 27,2011.

**Q. On the transition date, I was an investor (or visitor, temporary worker, student, permanent resident, etc) under CNMI law. What is my status under federal immigration law?**

**A.** The CNRA permits aliens to stay in the Commonwealth on the basis of their CNMI status as of the transition date for "as long as their activities in the CNMI are consistent with those authorized by their previous CNMI status." This means that a foreign worker whose umbrella permit has been revoked, or is not employed pursuant to CNMI law, is subject to removal from the Commonwealth under federal law.

**Q. I have a student umbrella permit or an investment and business umbrella permit. Can I work fulltime for any employer?**

**A.** No. A foreign student may work only part time and only in conjunction with the program of studies that allowed the foreign student to gain admission to the Commonwealth. A foreign investor may work full time but only in the enterprise in which the investor's capital is invested.

**Q. I am on the CNMI's "barred employer list." Does federal immigration law prohibit me from employing aliens who are authorized to be employed in the CNMI?**

**A. federal** law does not apply, but Commonwealth law prohibits barred employers from employing any foreign worker. The Commonwealth will prosecute any barred employer who seeks to employ a foreign worker while the bar is still in place.

**Q. Does my umbrella permit authorize me to travel outside the CNMI and return?**

**A.** Anyone may leave the Commonwealth at any time without any permission from either the CNMI or the U.S. unless an arrest warrant is outstanding. However, entry to the Commonwealth is controlled by the Customs and Border Protection agency of the Department of Homeland Security. The Commonwealth has been assured that the current "advance parole" system that is in effect to allow holders of umbrella permits to travel to the Commonwealth will remain in place indefinitely.

**Q. If I quit my job or I am terminated from employment, does my umbrella permit authorize me to remain in the CNMI until Nov. 27, 2011 without working?**

**A.** No. The CNRA was not intended to saddle the Commonwealth with the burden of unemployed aliens. If a foreign worker quits or is terminated, that worker must register with the Department of Labor and search diligently for employment within the time limits permitted. The umbrella permit of any worker who does not follow this procedure will be revoked by the department.

**Q. Can the CNMI government or my employer remove me from the CNMI?**

**A.** No. Only the Office of Detention and Removal within the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency can remove an alien from the CNMI. However, the CNMI government will promptly and vigorously seek removal of any alien who does not comply with Commonwealth laws and may seek other remedies as well.

**Q, May an employer accept an umbrella permit issued after Nov. 27,2009?**

**A.** There are no valid umbrella permits issued after Nov. 27, 2009 as none have been issued by the CNMI.

**Q. My umbrella permit does not have a photograph? What should I do?**

**A.** Your umbrella permit has already been revoked. You were required to appear prior to Jan. 15, 2010 to obtain a new permit with a photograph, and you did not do so. No employer may accept an umbrella permit without a photograph.

**Q. My umbrella permit has been lost, stolen, or damaged. What should I do?**

**A.** Because of the confusion surrounding the present situation, the Department of Labor will not issue any replacement permits. Every holder of an umbrella permit who signed for the permit was warned to keep the permit in a safe place. The department will verify, to an employer who is complying with Commonwealth law, that a permit was issued and remains valid.

**Q. Who is responsible for enforcing the anti-discrimination provisions of Section 274B of the INA?**

**A.** Any employer who complies with Commonwealth law is not subject to the antidiscrimination provisions of Section 274B of the INA because the labor program under which they operate is governed by local law.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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## EDITORIAL

# The heavy weight of free speech

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It's gutless for purveyors of hate to try escaping legal liability by letting the expression of their religious beliefs be characterized as "figurative or hyperbolic." It's also ironic that virulent opponents of homosexuality want to hide behind a Supreme Court precedent that extended free-speech protections to smutty parody.

But for the Rev. Fred Phelps, means seem to justify ends.

Phelps is pastor of a Kansas church populated largely by his relatives. He's gained notoriety by preying on dead soldiers as a platform to spread an extremist message.

Phelps and fellow church members believe that service members' deaths are God's punishment for America tolerating homosexuality and other "sins." In the name of religious speech, Phelps and his followers travel to military funerals and hold up such signs as "Semper fi fags" and "Thank God for dead soldiers."

Outside the March 2006 funeral of Lance Cpl. Matthew Snyder in Maryland, the signage included "God Hates You" and "Priests Rape Boys," the latter because the setting was a Roman Catholic church.

The protesters stood in a public space, 1,000 feet away from the church entrance, and left before the funeral started. But there was news coverage. And Snyder's father, Albert, was further appalled when he Googled his son's name and found a rant on a Phelps Web site that, among other things, said the Snyders taught their son to "defy his Creator, to divorce and to commit adultery."

A jury found for Albert Snyder when he sued Phelps and his church for privacy invasion and infliction of emotional distress. But the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned a $5 million verdict, saying that the signs and online tirade were "distasteful and repugnant" but still constitutionally protected.

Now the U.S. Supreme Court will weigh Phelps' free-speech rights against Snyder's right to gather at a private religious ceremony. The justices will decide whether individuals are entitled to compensation for feeling assaulted by this kind of obnoxious verbiage.

It's not an easy answer.

The appeals court reasoned that Phelps was conveying a message about issues of public concern. In that context, an individual can't collect monetary damages just because statements are offensive, if they're largely opinion or too rhetorical to be believed.

That comes from the Supreme Court's 1988 decision in Hustler v. Falwell. The justices said televangelist Jerry Falwell couldn't recover damages for infliction of emotional distress from the magazine over a parody ad that no reasonable person would take seriously.

A case about parody doesn't seem to cover Snyder's case, though. Phelps doesn't claim to be exaggerating for effect; he claims to be expressing sincerely held religious views.

On the other hand, he and the protesters peacefully demonstrate on public property. Even language that seems extreme and intrusive is protected under those circumstances.

There are ways to counter unpopular speech, even if it's constitutionally protected. As a result of Phelps' activities, 40 states have rules regarding protests at funerals. There's room in the

*See FREE SPEECH on Next Page*

# Aggressive measures to treat diabetics make many of them worse, studies show

**By THOMAS H. MAUGH II**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—It seemed like a good idea at the time. Diabetics are at an unusually high risk of heart disease, heart attacks and strokes, so treating them intensively to sharply reduce blood pressure, cholesterol levels and sugar levels should be highly beneficial. But a decade of studies in thousands of patients show that is not the case.

Two new reports from a major nationwide trial called ACCORD released Sunday show lowering either blood pressure or cholesterol levels below current guidelines do not provide additional benefit and, in fact, increase the risk of side effects. A third arm of the study, released two years ago, shows lowering blood sugar levels excessively actually increases the risk of heart disease.

The results are very disappointing, researchers say, because they suggest clinicians may have reached the limit for what they can do for diabetic patients without the development of totally new therapeutic approaches.

But the good news is, the findings "reduce the cost and potential side effects of drug therapy" and mean patients will not have to work as hard at reducing blood sugars, lipids and blood pressure, said Dr. Denise Simons-Morton of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, which funded the trial.

"The take-home message is that the standard care approaches are pretty good. If we try to go beyond them, it doesn't provide additional benefit."

Diabetes has become a tremendous problem in the United States, with at least 21 million people now afflicted with Type 2 diabetes—in which cells do not respond properly to insulin produced by the pancreas—and millions more at risk because of obesity. Most diabetics also have high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels, factors that bring their risk of heart attack and stroke to the same level as that of people who already have suffered a heart attack.

Many doctors have reasoned aggressively lowering blood pressure and lipids below nationally recommended levels might decrease the risk of heart disease, and ACCORD was created to study the possibility.

In one arm of the study, Dr. William C. Cushman of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Memphis and his colleagues at 77 medical centers enrolled 4,733 diabetics with high cholesterol levels and existing cardiovascular disease or a high risk of developing it. They were randomly assigned to treatment regimens to lower their systolic blood pressure—the top number in a blood pressure measurement—below 140 mm Hg, the standard treatment goal for diabetics, or below 120 mm Hg, the target goal.

Patients in the intensive treatment group took an average of 3.6 medications to lower blood pressure, while those in the normal treatment group took two.

Cushman reported Sunday at an Atlanta meeting of the American College of Cardiology and in a paper published online in the New England Journal of Medicine that the treatment group achieved an average systolic blood pressure of 119 mm Hg but that they had no decrease in heart attacks, cardiovascular disease or deaths.

They did have fewer strokes, 62 in the normal treatment group compared with 36 in the intensive treatment group, but that was offset by such side effects as abnormally low blood pressure or high levels of potassium. Some laboratory measures of kidney function were also abnormal in the intensive treatment group, but there was no increase in kidney failure.

Thus, "the main conclusion to draw from this study must be that a systolic blood pressure target below 120 mm Hg in patients with type 2 diabetes is not justified by the evidence," wrote Dr. Peter M. Nilsson of University Hospital in Malmo, Sweden, in an editorial accompanying the report.

In the second arm of the study, Dr. Henry N. Ginsberg of the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons studied 5,518 similar patients with high cholesterol levels. One group was given the cholesterol-lowering drug simvastatin, while the second group was given both simvastatin and a fibrate, a class of drug that lowers cholesterol and increases levels of high-density lipoproteins or HDL, the so-called good cholesterol.

Ginsberg reported at the meeting and in a separate paper in the New England Journal that the addition of fibrate to the regimen provided no benefit on any measure, with one possible exception. There was a trend toward a benefit in those patients with the highest cholesterol levels and the lowest HDL levels, but that group was not large enough for the results to be statistically significant.

So what can patients do?

"My personal opinion is that we need to put more effort into prevention," said Simons-Morton. "If we prevent diabetes in the first place, we reduce risk. Once they have diabetes and risk factors, we are never going to treat down to a level of risk as if they never had diabetes."

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# A question of preemption

**IMMIGRATION FORUM**

**By MAYA KARA and BRUCE MAILMAN**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.*

During the past week, we have witnessed the opening salvos of what promises to be the battle royal between federal and local authorities with respect to the employment and control of foreign workers in the CNMI. At a public forum held on March 4, federal Ombudsman Pam Brown announced that employers and foreign employees in the CNMI need comply only with federal laws with respect to their employment; and that the authority of the CNMI Department of Labor is preempted by P.L. 110-229, the Consolidated Natural Resources Act. The CNMI DOL has disputed this interpretation of the law. In a press release issued on March 12, 2010, by the Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta confirmed Ms. Brown's statements as the position of the federal government. He stated that the position Ms. Brown expressed was a matter of consensus between the Department of Interior and the Department of Homeland Security. This was confirmed by DHS on the same day, in an eight-page Q&A titled "Employment Authorization and Verification in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," issued by USCIS (an agency of the Department of Homeland Security). The document is available at http://tinyurl.com/yjypcbe. In today's column we will discuss the notion of preemption; questions raised by federal preemption of CNMI labor laws; and the USCIS position as expressed in the new Q&A.

## Preemption

Black's Law Dictionary defines "preemption" as follows:

A doctrine adopted by the U.S. Supreme Court holding that certain matters are of such national, as opposed to local, character that federal laws preempt or take precedence over state laws.

The definition of "federal preemption" is more specific:

The U.S. Constitution and acts of Congress have given to the federal government exclusive powers over certain matters such as interstate commerce and sedition to the exclusion of state jurisdiction. Occurs where federal law so occupies the field that state courts are prevented from asserting jurisdiction.

The federal authority to control the employment of foreign workers in the CNMI is derived from the federal government's immigration and interstate commerce powers. The power to control the borders is an aspect of sovereignty inherent to every modern state. When the United States originally agreed, in the Covenant, to cede that authority over the CNMI government, it reserved the right to reassert that authority by later congressional action. That is what the CNRA did: the U.S. took back from the CNMI the federal immigration authority temporarily relinquished under the Covenant. Although the authority to regulate interstate commerce rests with the federal government, states can regulate intrastate commerce, that is commerce within the state's borders. The CNMI has that same authority. States can and do have laws regulating labor. The floor for the protection of workers is set by federal law, one example is the federal minimum wage. But states can provide a greater level of protection, such as a higher minimum wage, and some states do. Thus, the CNMI could have labor laws that offer greater protection to workers than federal law. One of the questions is whether such protection can be extended to foreign workers only.

## Does federal law preempt CNMI labor laws?

No one is contesting that the federal government now has the authority to govern who may enter the CNMI and on what terms they may remain. What is at issue is how far that federal authority extends over people already in the CNMI. Does it include the authority to govern the terms and conditions of employment of alien workers? If it does, how are workers employed prior to November 28, 2009 affected? Does federal law displace all existing CNMI labor laws, regulations and procedures, or just some? Does the CNRA strip the CNMI Department of Labor of all authority, or just some? Does CNMI authority over labor matters prior to Nov. 28, 2009, remain? Does the CNMI still have authority over umbrella permit holders? What are the legal obligations of employers who have employees with umbrella permits? Can the local preference requirement survive federal equal protection required by the U.S. Constitution? How about the employer's responsibility for foreign workers' medical expenses? Will employers of aliens be required to pay double fees, first to the federal government and then again to the CNMI government?

These are not academic questions. Since the Ombudsman's announcement, we have had numerous inquiries from both employers and employees. Unfortunately, we do not have definite answers to any of the above questions. What we do have, for now, is the guidance provided by the Q&As published by USCIS several days ago. We will highlight its most critical provisions relevant to preemption below. We do not discuss provisions regarding compliance with Form I-9 CNMI, except with regard to the anti-discrimination provisions. The I-9 CNMI, with instructions, can be found at http://tinyurl.com/yk2qvob.

## What USCIS says about employment of aliens in the CNMI

1. The employment authorization of aliens present in the CNMI is now a matter of federal law.

2. Umbrella permits issued by the CNMI government prior to Nov. 28, 2009, are recognized as valid employment authorization and will continue to be so through Nov. 27, 2011.

3. Umbrella permit holders in the following categories may work in the private sector: 240K (foreign worker); 240D (immediate relative of U.S. citizen, or Lawful Permanent Resident); 240H (foreign student); 240G (foreign investor); 240N (two year business); 240O (retiree). Umbrella permit holders in category 240B may only work for the CNMI government. Umbrella permit holders in category 240E (immediate relatives of aliens) may not work unless authorized on some other basis.

**ON THE NET**

- Q&A: http://tinyurl.com/yjypcbe
- I-9 CNMI: http://tinyurl.com/yk2qvob
- OSC Web site: http://www.justice.gov/crt/osc

4. If an umbrella permit has two dates (report back date and expiration date); employment authorization is valid until the later date or Nov. 28, 2011.

5. An employer does not need the approval of CNMI DOL to hire a worker with an umbrella permit.

6. Umbrella permits cannot be extended; they are valid through Nov. 28, 2011. Even if the CNMI revokes an umbrella permit, the alien can still work legally through Nov. 28, 2011.

7. Umbrella permits provide work authorization only. It only affects the basic privilege to work in the CNMI. A contract between employer and employee cannot create an employment authorization. However, lawful contractual arrangements between employer and employee may be enforced as a matter of contract law. Occupational and licensing requirements must be met in addition to work authorization.

8. Umbrella permits do not provide a shield against removal/deportation. All aliens in the CNMI are subject to the regular bases for removal such as inadmissibility or commission of certain crimes. However, an alien who was lawfully present in the CNMI on Nov. 28, 2009, cannot be removed on the specific ground of being present without inspection until after Nov. 27, 2011. In other words, umbrella permit holders are protected against removal for up to two years even though they didn't enter the United States in the usual manner.

9. Umbrella permits cannot be used as travel documents. If you leave the CNMI, you will need a U.S. visa or an advance parole (for foreign travel) or a regular parole (for domestic U.S. travel) to reenter to the CNMI and resume your CNMI status.

10. An umbrella permit issued after Nov. 28, 2009, is valid in only very limited circumstances: (a) a replacement permit if the original permit was lost, stolen or damaged; (b) a reissued permit to correct a clerical error or to add a photograph. This provision also implies that there can be no change of classification in an umbrella permit (e.g. foreign national worker 240K to immediate relative 240D or 240E). DOL retains the authority to reissue umbrella permits in these limited circumstances.

11. Section 274B of the INA prohibits discrimination on the basis of citizenship status or national origin in the hiring, firing, recruitment or referral for employment for a fee. This provision is enforced by the Department of Justice, Office of Special Counsel for Immigration Related Unfair Employment Practices. Toll free telephone numbers are provided in the Q&A. For more information, see OSC's Web site at http://www.justice.gov/crt/osc.

As we said at the start of today's column, we anticipate a federal-local battle royal, and the war of words reported in the press during the past couple of weeks is only the beginning. As private attorneys with clients who suffer real-world consequences for wrong decisions, we tend to be very conservative in our advice. What we have been telling people is that if you are an employer who can wait to hire or renew an employee (or if you are the employee in question), then wait until the dust has settled. If you have an existing employment contract, follow its terms because the CNRA does not affect contractual relations—the new Q&As are very clear on that point. If you cannot wait to hire or renew, however, then you have to decide which interpretation of the law is likely to prevail, the feds or the local government. We suspect that for a lot of people, the decision will depend on how much it will cost to hire a new employee, or renew an existing worker. If the federal government is correct, hiring and renewing umbrella permit holders just got a lot less expensive (at least until Nov. 27, 2011). Unless, of course, you get caught in the middle between the federal and local authorities, and end up being a test case.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.*

## FREE SPEECH

*From Page 10*

First Amendment for cities and states to impose reasonable time, place and manner restrictions to maintain order and balance the rights of both protesters and those their words are directed against.

It's a hard truth that the First Amendment protects a large amount of outrageous expression; it has to for public dialogue about important issues to flourish.

## Letter to the Editor

# Begging to differ

In the Monday article titled "7-hour govt workday pushed," Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos was quoted as saying, "That's [because] hardly anything is done from 7:30am to 8:30am, and by cutting work hours, that will help save government money." I do not know which government agencies the lieutenant governor was referring to, but I would like to respectfully disagree with that statement in regards to the government agency I work for. Here at WIC, the 7:45am-9am appointment slots are in high demand, and it is normally our busiest time of the workday. Many times, we have families outside by 7am or 7:15am waiting for us to open.

As for the lieutenant governor's assertion that cutting government agency hours would save the CNMI money, again, I would respectfully disagree when it comes to the WIC program. The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children, WIC, is fully federally funded by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Cutting hours at WIC is more likely to reduce federal funding, rather than save the CNMI any of its own money.

In addition, research has shown that WIC saves lives and improves the health of nutritionally at-risk women, infants, and children. This improves birth outcomes and reduces costly medical issues. [1, 2, 3] So, basically, the WIC program takes no local funding, and actually works to reduce costs for Medicaid.

And, for the record, my opinions are my own, and I do not claim to represent the opinions of my coworkers, or the official position of the CNMI-WIC program. Thank you.

**Dianne C. Esplin**
*As Matuis, Saipan*

[1] Gordon, Anne; and Lyle Nelson. Characteristics and Outcomes of WIC Participants and Nonparticipants: Analysis of the 1988 National Maternal and Infant Health Survey. Alexandria, Virginia: U.S. Department of Agriculture, March 1995. 8. Heimendinger, J., Larid, N., Austin, J., Timmer, P., and Gershoff, S.: "The Effects of the WIC Program on the Growth of Infants," Am. J. Clin. Nutr., 40:1250-1257, December 1984.

[2] U.S. General Accounting Office, "Early Intervention: Federal Investments Like WIC Can Produce Savings," Document HRD 92-18, Washington, D.C., April 1992.

[3] How WIC Helps, FNS-USDA, http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/aboutwic/howwichelps.htm

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 20 to 25 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲87° ▼75° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° | ▲86° ▼76° |

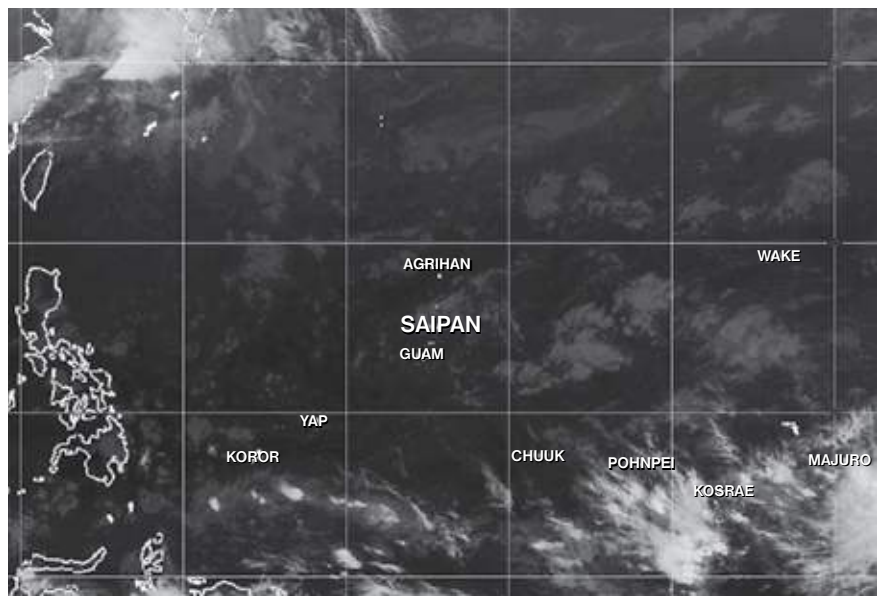
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Mostly Sunny | ▲83 | ▼75 |
| Palau | Sunny | ▲88 | ▼76 |
| Yap | Showers | ▲87 | ▼76 |
| Chuuk | Mostly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Rain | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Kosrae | Mostly Sunny | ▲88 | ▼75 |
| Majuro | Rain | ▲83 | ▼80 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Cloudy | ▲69 | ▼61 |
| Beijing | Partly Sunny | ▲46 | ▼28 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Cloudy | ▲75 | ▼68 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Cloudy | ▲77 | ▼68 |
| London | Mostly Sunny | ▲52 | ▼37 |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | ▲83 | ▼56 |
| Manila | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼74 |
| Melbourne | Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼64 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲73 | ▼56 |
| New York | Partly Sunny | ▲55 | ▼41 |
| Osaka | Cloudy | ▲52 | ▼37 |
| Paris | Sunny | ▲52 | ▼39 |
| Pusan | Partly Sunny | ▲49 | ▼26 |
| Rome | Partly Sunny | ▲56 | ▼37 |
| Salem | Rain | ▲59 | ▼38 |
| San Francisco | Cloudy | ▲64 | ▼50 |
| Seoul | Mostly Sunny | ▲43 | ▼23 |
| Tokyo | Showers | ▲60 | ▼43 |
| Washington, DC | Cloudy | ▲57 | ▼41 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2010**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 3N130E to near EQ165E. Trade winds converging north of the trough are causing scattered showers near Palau within 75 miles of a line from 8N131E to 5N141E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Chuuk are within 75 miles of a line from 4N149E to 2N151E and from just southeast of Pohnpei across Kosrae within 150 miles of a line from 5N160E to 2N168E. A trade-wind disturbance over the southern Marshall Islands is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between the equator and 8N from 170E to 180. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers east of Saipan within 100 miles of a line from 17N150E to 17N154E and south of Wake Island within 60 miles of a line from 14N167E to 14N169E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:07 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.3 Feet |
| 8:06 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 2:28 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.5 Feet |
| 8:17 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:24 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:24 AM | 6:27 PM |
| Thursday | 6:23 AM | 6:28 PM |
| Friday | 6:22 AM | 6:28 PM |
| Saturday | 6:22 AM | 6:28 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:15 AM | 6:43 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:51 AM | 7:31 PM |
| Thursday | 7:29 AM | 8:22 PM |
| Friday | 8:09 AM | 9:15 PM |
| Saturday | 8:53 AM | 10:10 PM |

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 16, 2010

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 11:30am | 12:05pm | 1, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09597 | 12:40pm | 1:10pm | 1, 7 |

**SAIPAN-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09317 | 4:25am | 5:15am | Daily |
| C09313 | 8:30am | 9:20am | Daily |
| C09597 | 11:30am | 1:10pm | 1, 7 via ROP |
| C09601 | 12:20pm | 1:10pm | 4, 5 |
| C09603 | 3:15pm | 4:05pm | Daily |
| C09605 | 6:20pm | 7:10pm | Daily |
| C09599 | 9:20pm | 10:10pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL638 | 8:00am | 10:55am | Daily |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 5:50am | 8:40am | Daily |
| DL638/288 | 8:00am | 1:40pm | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:30pm | Daily |
| DL289 | 4:50pm | 7:45pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:20am | 6:50am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604 | 2:10am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ604 | 2:40am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ119 | 4:00am | 11:25am | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am | |
| OZ606 | 3:20pm | 7:00pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM844 | 2:50am | 5:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3008 | 3:30am | 6:40am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/701 | 2:10am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/701 | 2:40am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ608/705 | 3:20am | 1:30am+1 | 1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS |
| C09603/933 | 3:15pm | 8:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| OZ606/703 | 3:20pm | 10:55pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN |
| C09605/933 | 6:20pm | 9:40pm | Daily via GUM |
| C09599/PR111 | 9:20pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ604/721 | 2:10am | 12:00pm | 1 via ICN |
| OZ604/721 | 2:40am | 12:00pm | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ606/749 | 3:20pm | 11:00pm | 4, 6, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 3:10am | 3:45am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 1:20pm | 1:55pm | 6 |

**GUAM-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09598 | 2:00am | 2:30am | 5, 6 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 12:40pm | 6 |

**GUAM-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| C09316 | 2:00am | 2:50am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| C09598 | 2:00am | 3:45am | 5, 6 via ROP |
| C09596 | 7:00am | 7:50am | Daily |
| C09600 | 10:05am | 10:55am | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09312 | 12:10pm | 1:55pm | 6 via ROP |
| C09602 | 1:50pm | 2:40pm | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| C09604 | 4:50pm | 5:40pm | Daily |
| C09606 | 8:00pm | 8:50pm | Daily |

**NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL641 | 9:05pm | 1:35am+1 | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL290 | 10:00am | 2:30pm | Daily |
| DL298 | 10:15am | 2:45pm | Daily |
| DL287/641 | 5:50pm | 1:35am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO |
| DL288 | 9:00pm | 1:40am+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:00pm | 2:10am+1 | 4, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ605 | 9:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4, 6, 7 |
| OZ120 | 7:10pm | 2:20am+1 | Daily via Osaka |
| | | Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm | |
| OZ603 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ603 | 8:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| FM843 | 7:15pm | 1:50am+1 | 1, 5 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CZ3007 | 7:30pm | 2:40am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ706/607 | 3:35am | 2:10am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/603 | 1:10pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| PR110/C09596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM |
| C0892/9596 | 10:10pm | 7:50am+1 | 3,5 via PALAU-GUM |
| C0934/9596 | 10:55pm | 7:50am+1 | Daily via GUM |
| OZ704/605 | 11:55pm | 2:20pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN |

**HONG KONG-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ724/605 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN |
| OZ750/605 | 1:00am | 2:20pm | 2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/603 | 1:30pm | 1:30am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily |
| **Guam-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Saipan** | | | |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Rota** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| **Rota-Guam** | | | |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily |
| **Saipan-Tinian** | | | |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily |

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|---|---|---|---|
| FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| **Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**** | | | |
| FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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# Business

# Lawyer refutes doubts about runaway Prius driver

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—The mystery surrounding a Toyota Prius whose driver reported a stuck accelerator deepened Sunday as the motorist's attorney dismissed a congressional memo that questions his client's version of events.

The memo said technicians with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Toyota could not duplicate the sudden, unintended acceleration that James Sikes said he experienced March 8 when he reached 94 mph on a California freeway. Investigators tried during a two-hour test drive Thursday.

The memo was based on a congressional staffer's observations of a two-day inspection last week at a dealership in suburban San Diego. A Toyota official who was at the inspection explained that an electric motor would "completely seize" if a system to shut off the gas when the brake is pressed fails, and there was no evidence to support that happened, according to the memo.

"In this case, knowing that we are able to push the car around the shop, it does not appear to be feasibly possible, both electronically and mechanically that his gas pedal was stuck to the floor and he was slamming on the brake at the same time," according to the report for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Kurt Bardella, a spokesman for the committee's top Republican, Darrell Issa of California, said Sunday that the findings "certainly raise new questions surrounding the veracity of the sequence of events" reported by Sikes.

"We're not saying Mr. Sikes is wrong or that he lied, we're saying that questions have arisen in the investigation," Bardella said.

John Gomez, Sikes' attorney, said the findings fail to undermine his client's story.

"I don't put a whole lot of stock in their explanation," he said. "It's not surprising they couldn't replicate it. They have never been able to replicate an incident of sudden acceleration. Mr. Sikes never had a problem in the three years he owned this vehicle."

Brian Pennings, a spokesman for the California Highway Patrol, said his agency's view that there is no evidence of a hoax is unchanged. The CHP does not plan to investigate the incident because there were no injuries or property damage.

"Unless they can completely disprove Mr. Sikes, we're done," Pennings said. "It doesn't sound like they can do that."

Messages left with three Toyota spokesmen at the automaker's U.S headquarters in Torrance were not returned Sunday. Transportation Department officials did not immediately comment Sunday.

NHTSA is looking into claims from more than 60 Toyota owners that their vehicles continue to accelerate unexpectedly despite having their vehicles repaired.

Toyota has recalled millions of cars because of floor mats that can snag gas pedals or accelerators that can sometimes stick. Sikes' car was covered by the floor mat recall but not the one for sticky accelerators. He later told reporters that he tried to pull on the gas pedal during his harrowing ride, but it didn't "move at all."

AP

In this March 10, 2010 file photo, a 2005 Toyota Prius, which was in an accident, is seen at a police station in Harrison, New York. Police said Friday, March 12, Toyota is sending an engineer to help investigate a suburban New York accident in which the driver said her Prius accelerated on its own and slammed into a stone wall.

# Oil falls below $81 amid weak US crude demand

**SINGAPORE** (AP)—Oil prices fell below $81 a barrel Monday in Asia amid investor concerns flagging U.S. crude demand doesn't justify the recent rally.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was down 40 cents to $80.84 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 60 cents to settle at $82.09 on Friday.

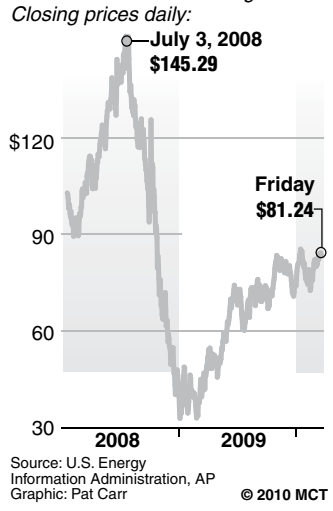
Oil prices jumped from $69 early last month on expectations an improving U.S. economy would bring crude demand up with it. But oil consumption has lagged, and prices have stalled in the low $80s for the last week.

"U.S. demand for oil is falling," energy consultant Stephen Schork said in a report. "Until we see a decrease in unemployment and an increase in consumer confidence we will remain on guard for a double dip recession."

Investors will be eyeing this week's Federal Reserve meeting for signs of when policymakers may start raising record-low interest rates.

**Oil prices**

*Nymex benchmark crude oil prices have been inching up, but they are still far below their 2008 highs. Closing prices daily:*




Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, AP
Graphic: Pat Carr

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In other Nymex trading in April contracts, heating oil was down 0.2 cent at $2.092 a gallon, and gasoline dropped 0.4 cent to $2.251 a gallon. Natural gas declined 4.3 cents to $4.357 per 1,000 cubic feet.

In London, Brent crude was down 40 cents at $78.99 on the ICE futures exchange.

# Survey: Readers don't want to pay for news online

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Getting people to pay for news online at this point would be "like trying to force butterflies back into their cocoons," a new consumer survey suggests.

That was one of several bleak headlines in the Project for Excellence in Journalism's annual assessment of the state of the news industry, released Sunday.

The project's report contained an extensive look at habits of the estimated six in 10 Americans who say they get at least some news online during a typical day. On average, each person spends three minutes and four seconds per visit to a news site.

About 35 percent of online news consumers said they have a favorite site that they check each day. The others are essentially free agents, the project said. Even among those who have their favorites, only 19 percent said they would be willing to pay for news online—including those who already do.

There's little brand loyalty: 82 percent of people with preferred news sites said they'd look elsewhere if their favorites start demanding payment.

"If we move to some pay system, that shift is going to have to surmount significant consumer resistance," said Tom Rosenstiel, director of the project, part of the Pew Research Center.

Last year, online advertising saw its first decline since 2002, according to the research firm eMarketer. Four of five Americans surveyed told the project that they never or hardly ever click on ads.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### Abu Dhabi sovereign wealth fund starts to open up

**ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority broke with its customary privacy by issuing its first yearly statement Monday, marking one of the biggest steps yet by the world's largest sovereign wealth fund to increase transparency. The document, called an "annual review," provides a rare window into the publicity-shy fund's operations and investment strategy. A revamped Web site launching Monday aims to further humanize ADIA by including video soundbites from key players and photos offering a glimpse inside the fund's iconic glass tower, the tallest in the Emirati capital. The increased openness could help address Western policy makers' concerns about the Abu Dhabi fund's motives at a time when the neighboring emirate Dubai is under fire for a perceived lack of financial transparency amid the handling of its debt crisis.

### China oil firm takes $3.1B stake in SAmerican firm

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Leading offshore producer China National Offshore Oil Corp. said Sunday it has agreed to pay $3.1 billion to form a joint-venture with a major Argentine energy firm, helping to expand China's access to natural resources in South America. The investment will give CNOOC a 50 percent stake in Bridas Corp., which is currently controlled by Bridas Energy Holdings Ltd., the Chinese firm said in a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange. The joint-venture company will be jointly managed by CNOOC and Bridas Energy. Bridas Corp. currently has oil and gas exploration and production operations in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.

### Amazon reacts to new Colo. tax, costing affiliates

**DENVER** (AP)—Kristie McNealy blogs from her suburban Denver home about raising four children and health issues. Her husband, Rob, a floor installer, runs another Web site offering product reviews and advice on hardwood floors. It's not just for fun. Whenever someone clicks on a link to buy a book or product that their sites mention from an online seller, the McNealys get a commission. And if that customer comes back the next day to that same retailer and buys a television, they get a cut of that, too. Last week, the McNealys, along with at least 4,000 others like them, lost a chunk of their business when Amazon.com announced it was cutting ties with its Colorado-based affiliate marketers—Web sites and bloggers that help it sell products.

# APAFS chair to address Pacific finance association

**HAGATNA, Guam**—The chairman of the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies will speak at an upcoming conference of the Association of Developing Financial Institutions in the Pacific to be held from May 3 through 6.

Gerard Cruz, chairman of APAFS, said his speech would focus on several points.

"Members of the Association have made distinct progress this year in agreeing to implement

GIPs standards and we look forward to further landmarks as 2010 goes forward. This will also be a chance to get an update on ADFIPs news and bring that to our membership."

ADFIP was established in 1986. It oversees as exchange of information between member financial institutions, studies commonly experienced problems, and provides technical assistance to members. Its Executive Officer is Amelia Baro who manages the ADFIP Secretariat Office based within Fiji Development Bank. ADFIP is a regional association and majority of its members are also members of ADFIAP, the Manila-headquartered Association of Developing Financial Institutions in the Asia Pacific formed in 1976.

APAFS was established in 1999 and hosts the annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, which will take place in Manila this year on October 14 and 15, as well as regional country meetings throughout the year for the purposes of training and information exchange.

The members of ADFIP, which is headquartered in Suva in Fiji, include the FSM Development Bank.

Anna Mendiola, president and chief executive officer of FSM Development Bank, is an ADFIP Trustee Limited Director. She additionally serves this year as Secretary of the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies.

Mendiola said she was delighted that Cruz will update members of ADFIP on APAFS work as well as take ADFIP news back to the members of APAFS. "There is definitely a synergy between these two important organizations in the Asia Pacific region and it is important that we share knowledge and look at ways all members of both organizations can progress in the areas of fiscal responsibility, training and more."

For more information, log on to www.apafs.org. ***(PR)***

# Nation

# Obama promise: Brighter education futures for kids

**ATLANTA** (AP)—President Barack Obama is promising parents and their kids that with his administration's help they will have better teachers in improved schools so U.S. students can make up for academic ground lost against youngsters in other countries.

A plan to overhaul the 2002 education law championed by President George W. Bush was unveiled by the Obama administration Saturday in hopes of replacing a system that in the last decade has tagged more than a third of schools as failing and created a hodgepodge of sometimes weak academic standards among states.

"Unless we take action—unless we step up—there are countless children who will never realize their full talent and potential," Obama said during a video address on Saturday. "I don't accept that future for them. And I don't accept that future for the United States of America."

In the proposed dismantling of the No Child Left Behind law, education officials would move away from punishing schools that don't meet benchmarks and focus on rewarding schools for progress, particularly with poor and minority students. Obama intends to send a rewrite to Congress on Monday of the law.

The proposed changes call for states to adopt standards that ensure students are ready for college or a career rather than grade-level proficiency—the focus of the current law.

The blueprint also would allow states to use subjects other than reading and mathematics as part of their measurements for meeting federal goals, pleasing many education groups that have said No Child Left Behind encouraged teachers not to focus on history, art, science, social studies and other important subjects.

And, for the first time in 45 years, the White House is proposing a $4 billion increase in federal education spending, most of which would go to increase the competition among states for grant money and move away from formula-based funding.

The blueprint goes before the House Education and Labor Committee on Wednesday as Obama pushes Congress to reauthorize the education law this year, a time-consuming task that some observers say will be difficult. Committee Chairman George Miller, a Democrat from California, praised Obama's plan.

AP

President Barack Obama speaks at the Export-Import Bank's Annual Conference in Washington, Thursday, March 11, 2010.

"This blueprint lays the right markers to help us reset the bar for our students and the nation," Miller said in a prepared statement.

Meanwhile, the American Federation of Teachers, which represents more than 1.4 million educators nationwide, issued a statement Saturday criticizing the plan, saying "it just doesnt make sense to have teachers—and teachers alone—bear the responsibility for school and student success."

"It appears from our first review that despite some promising rhetoric, this blueprint places 100 percent of the responsibility on teachers and gives them zero percent authority," the statement said.

Education Secretary Arne Duncan briefed a handful of governors, lawmakers and education groups on the plan Friday, including Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue, a Republican.

"The governor is very supportive of the direction the secretary is going," said Perdue's spokesman Chris Schrimpf.

A few other highlights from the blueprint:

■ By 2020, all students graduating from high school would need to be ready for college or a career. That's a shift away from the current law, which calls for all students to be performing at grade level in reading and math by 2014.

■ Give more rewards—money and flexibility—to high-poverty schools that are seeing big gains in student achievement and use them as a model for other schools in low-income neighborhoods that struggle with performance.

■ Punish the lowest-performing 5 percent of schools using aggressive measures, such as having the state take over federal funding for poor students, replacing the principal and half the teaching staff or closing the school altogether.

■ Duncan has said the name No Child Left Behind will be dropped because it is associated with a harsh law that punishes schools for not reaching benchmarks even if they've made big gains. He said the administration will work with Congress to come up with a new name.

## No word from woman freed in alleged plot, mom says

**LEADVILLE, Colo.** (AP)—A Colorado woman who says she is the mother of an American held and later released in Ireland over an alleged plot to kill a Swedish cartoonist said Sunday she does not know where her daughter or grandson may be.

Christine Mott, of Leadville, said she learned from federal law-enforcement agencies that her 31-year-old daughter, Jamie Paulin-Ramirez, had been arrested. Irish police said Saturday that they had released an American woman and three others arrested over the alleged plot to kill Vilks, who depicted the Prophet Muhammad in a 2007 sketch with the body of a dog. Police wouldn't confirm whether those released included Paulin-Ramirez.

Mott said Sunday she had not heard from federal authorities, Paulin-Ramirez or her 6-year-old grandson, Christian.

"The only thing I care about is getting that little boy back in the United States where he is safe," she said.

Paulin-Ramirez lived in Blue Springs, Mo., before moving to Leadville, her mother said. She told her family last year that she had converted to Islam and that they'd go to hell if they didn't do the same, Mott said.

## Post-snow, Northeast mops up from wind-driven rain

**EGG HARBOR CITY, N.J.** (AP)—Last month, the Northeast was smothered by blizzards. Now, it's waterlogged by torrential rains.

The region mopped up Sunday following a bout with high wind and heavy rains that uprooted trees, downed power lines and flooded some creeks and rivers. Six people died in storm-related accidents and hundreds of thousands were without electricity.

More than a half-million customers in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Connecticut lost electricity at the peak of Saturday's storm, which carried wind gusts of up to 70 mph. It came about two weeks after heavy snow and hurricane-force winds left more than a million customers in the Northeast in the dark.

"I spent most of the past few months clearing snow and ice out my driveway, sidewalks, front walks, and now we're picking up all these branches," Jack Alexander said as he and his family worked to clear debris from the front yard of their Egg Harbor City home. "It seems like we've had every type of weather event you could have this winter—I'm almost afraid to see what else can happen."

Farther north in Jackson Township, drivers were negotiating stretches of flooded roadways and detours caused by fallen trees and accidents.

"Fortunately it's a Sunday, so there's not as much traffic to deal with" said Vanna Hayes, a 32-year-old New York City resident who was in the area to visit relatives. "We wanted to go to Atlantic City last night, but we put it off because it looked like a monsoon was happening down there."

In Manhattan, Broadway's sidewalks and trash cans were littered with hundreds of shattered umbrellas.

## Dem House vote-counter lacks health care votes now

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The House's chief Democratic headcounter said Sunday he hadn't rounded up enough votes to pass President Barack Obama's health care overhaul heading into a make-or-break week, even as the White House's top political adviser said he was "absolutely confident" in its prospects.

Pelosi

The administration gave signs of retreating on its demands that senators jettison special home-state deals sought by individual lawmakers that have angered the public.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs predicted House passage this week, before Obama travels to Asia, a trip he postponed to push for the bill.

"This is the week where we will have this important vote," Gibbs said. "I do think this is the climactic week for health care reform."

Political strategist David Axelrod said Democrats will persuade enough lawmakers to vote "yes." The House GOP leader, Ohio Rep. John Boehner, took up the challenge, acknowledging Republicans alone can't stop the measure but pledging to do "everything we can to make it difficult for them, if not impossible, to pass the bill." Republicans believe they may get help from Democrats facing tough re-election campaigns.

Axelrod said it will be a struggle, taking aim at insurance industry lobbyists who "have landed on Capitol Hill like locusts" and Republicans who see being on the losing side of the vote as a political victory.

"I am absolutely confident that we are going to be successful. I believe that there is a sense of urgency on the part of members of Congress," given recent news about insurance plan rate increases, Axelrod said.

A dose of reality came from Rep. James Clyburn, the third-ranking House Democrat and main vote counter. "No, we don't have them as of this morning, but we've been working this thing all weekend," said Clyburn, D-S.C.

Clyburn said he was confident the measure would pass, echoing comments from Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., on Saturday.

## ACROSS THE NATION

### Thousands mourn death of Southern Calif. teen

POWAY, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of teachers, classmates and neighbors filled a high school stadium Saturday to honor a 17-year-old girl whose body was discovered in a shallow, lakeside grave as her parents vowed to dedicate themselves to protecting children from sex predators. Dozens of doves were let go at the end of the nearly two-hour service for Chelsea King as many in the bleachers raised sunflowers with pale blue ribbons tied around the stems. Family and friends told the crowd of Chelsea's big dreams, terrific sense of humor, sense of style, athleticism and thirst for knowledge.

### 2 people die in NJ home fire a day after moving in

FORT LEE, N.J. (AP)—Two people who'd moved into a northern New Jersey town house a day earlier have died in a fire that started in their kitchen and spread upstairs. Police say 52-year-old Eliot C. Nisenbaum and 55-year-old Ronald Sandberg were found Saturday night in the second-floor master bedroom of their home in Fort Lee, overlooking the Hudson River. Firefighters had to break down a door to gain entry to the unit in the gated Kensington Park complex. They tried to resuscitate the victims, who were pronounced dead at the scene a short time later.

### Dad of missing Ariz. boy says he's moving to Texas

**PHOENIX** (AP)—The father of a missing Arizona baby says he plans to move to Texas later this month to continue the search for his 8-month-old son. Logan McQueary made the announcement Saturday night during a fundraiser. It was the first time he'd spoken publicly since police in San Antonio called off a landfill search after finding no evidence in Gabriel's disappearance. McQueary says he already has a job and an apartment in San Antonio. He's spent the past several months hunting for Gabriel. He believes the baby is alive and may have been illicitly adopted. Gabriel was last seen Dec. 26 in San Antonio, with his 23-year-old mother, Elizabeth Johnson.

### 4 on 2 motorcycles killed in Fla. collision

**BUSHNELL, Fla.** (AP)—Four people on two motorcycles have been killed in western Florida after a pickup truck struck both bikes. All four motorcyclists were ejected and one victim was thrown through the windshield of another truck. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, a truck driven by 45-year-old Paul Sermons was trying to pass a slower, westbound vehicle on Saturday night near Bushnell. Police say he didn't realize how close the motorcycles were in the eastbound lane of the county road. He says he wasn't able to slow down and hit both bikes.

# Asia

# Deadline for Thai Parliament dissolution passes

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Thailand's prime minister, backed by a formidable military force, rejected an ultimatum to dissolve Parliament on Monday as tens of thousands of red-shirted protesters vowed to continue their push to oust the government.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, the key target of the massive demonstration, said he could not give in to the protesters' demand to dissolve Parliament by midday but left room for compromise.

The demonstrators marshaled around a heavily defended military headquarters where Abhisit has been hunkered down in recent days, but after the deadline passed they began a march back to their main encampment.

AP

Protesters and supporters of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra wave flags during an anti-government rally outside a military barrack in Bangkok, Thailand Monday, March 15, 2010.

A protest leader, Veera Musikapong, told a sea of so-called Red Shirts around the 11th Infantry Regiment compound that new methods would be used to pressure the government, but he gave no details.

"Asking for the dissolution of Parliament before noon in exchange for a halt to the demonstrations, we all agreed it can't be done. However, it doesn't mean the government coalition parties and I won't listen to their ideas," Abhisit said on nationwide television.

Some 100,000 Red Shirt protesters have been camped out along a boulevard in the old part of Bangkok. A force of more than 50,000 soldiers, police and other security personnel has been mobilized in the capital area.

"Our goal is not to remain entrenched in the government. Like all Thais, we'd like to see the country move forward," Abhisit said. "The government must listen to the demonstrators. Although the demand can't be met by noon, we are willing to hear what they say."

With banners waving, thousands of the protesters piled into trucks, rode motorcycles or trudged on foot toward the barbed-wire ringed regimental compound where soldiers played songs composed by the Thai king in a bid to keep things calm. They began to leave a few hours later.

The troops guarding the headquarters were in full combat gear but no weapons were visible except short-barreled rifles for firing tear gas.

City authorities feared traffic chaos in areas of the sprawling capital, but in other quarters, traffic was surprisingly light as many office workers stayed home for fear of violence. Some international schools were closed.

But the protest, one of the largest staged in recent years, has proved peaceful.

The protesters, formally grouped as the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, have been flexible in their tactics and deadlines, but are demanding Abhisit dissolve Parliament and call new elections, which they believe will restore their political allies to power.

They believe Abhisit took office illegitimately with the connivance of the military and other parts of the traditional ruling class who were alarmed by former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's popularity, particularly among the poor. Thaksin, who became prime minister in 2001 and whose party easily won two elections, was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

# Militant with money links leads Abu Sayyaf faction

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A Filipino militant wanted by Washington has become leader of a key faction of Abu Sayyaf, the al-Qaida-linked extremist group in the southern Philippines for which he has previously acquired foreign funding, the Philippine military says.

A military report obtained by The Associated Press Sunday says the militant, Khair Mundus, has connections to funding donors from Saudi Arabia and Malaysia. It also says he has an ideological bent and has begun giving Islamic religious training to Abu Sayyaf fighters.

The United States last year offered $500,000 for information leading to the capture or killing of Mundus, who was arrested by Philippine authorities in 2004 but escaped from a local jail in 2007. While in police custody, Mundus confessed to having arranged the transfer of al-Qaida funds to an Abu Sayyaf chief to finance bombings and other attacks, according to the U.S. State Department.

The Abu Sayyaf, which means "Father of the Swordsman" in Arabic, was founded in 1991 on the predominantly Muslim island of Basilan in the Philippines' south. It has been blamed for bombings, kidnappings, beheadings and has reportedly given sanctuary to Indonesian terror suspects, including Dulmatin, a key suspect in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings who was killed by police in Indonesia last week.

Washington has blacklisted the Abu Sayyaf, which has nearly 400 fighters, as a terrorist organization. U.S.-backed offensives have killed or captured many of its commanders in recent years, leaving the group without an overall leader to unify its factions on Basilan, nearby Jolo island and the Zamboanga Peninsula.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### US diplomat flees South Korea amid fraud probe

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—An American diplomat based in South Korea fled to the Philippines after facing charges that he swindled a local woman out of nearly $200,000, police in the southern city of Busan said Monday. The suspect, a 50-year-old official with the Department of Homeland Security, is accused of taking 220 million won ($194,000) from a widow he had known since 2007. He allegedly told her the money would go toward building a school in the Philippines and promised her a high return on the investment, Busan Haeundae police said. An investigation later found he had no business plan and gambled her money away, officer Nam Geun-chan said.

### Woman, 92, charged in death of 98-year-old husband

**SYDNEY** (AP)—Police in Australia have charged a 92-year-old woman with killing her 98-year-old husband. Clare Tang is due to appear in court Tuesday on a murder charge after her husband was found dead in their apartment in downtown Sydney on Friday night. New South Wales state police said in a statement that C.Y. Tang was found in the lounge room and that he had suffered head wounds. A cause of death was still being determined. Clare Tang was arrested at the scene. Family friend George Tsoi said the couple were from Shanghai, China, and owned restaurants in Singapore. He said they had been married for about 70 years, and that Clare Tang appeared to love her husband deeply, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

### Filipino police eye grudge in broadcaster's death

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—A broadcaster has been found bludgeoned to death inside his radio station in the Philippines—a country considered one of the most dangerous for media workers, police said Monday. Chito Abuzo's bloodied body was found late Saturday inside the compound of DXGS radio station in southern General Santos city, where he hosted a nightly health program and wrote a newspaper column, police said. They said the killing may be linked to a personal grudge. Abuzo's head was smashed with a heavy rock, said the city's police chief Marcelo Pintac. Initial findings pointed to a personal feud, he said, adding that authorities were looking for the boyfriend of a female journalist as a suspect. He gave no other details.

# Taliban: Kandahar bombings a 'warning' to NATO

**KANDAHAR, Afghanistan** (AP)—The Taliban on Sunday called their deadly bomb attacks on the southern city of Kandahar a warning to NATO's top general that the insurgents were ready for the war's next major offensive in their heartland.

The series of bombings that demolished buildings and killed dozens—including 10 people at a wedding—prompted the provincial governor to plead for more security in the area. Fearful residents said they had no confidence that either government or foreign troops can protect them.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the Saturday night attacks proved the insurgents were still able to operate despite the buildup of Afghan and international troops in preparation for a push into Kandahar province.

AP

A former member of Taliban look at weapons during a ceremony to hand them over to the Afghan government in Herat, west of Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 14, 2010.

A Taliban-linked Web site called the attacks in the south's largest city a "warning" to NATO's Gen. Stanley McChrystal, who has said coalition forces will target Kandahar later this year after driving the insurgents from a key stronghold in neighboring Helmand province.

"Gen. McChrystal has said that soon they will start their operations, and now we have already started our operations," Ahmadi told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "With all the preparations they have taken, still they are not able to stop us."

However, Ministry of Interior spokesman Zemeri Bashary said the attacks failed to achieve their main objective, which was apparently to repeat the success of a 2008 suicide bombing at the prison gates that freed hundreds of criminals and suspected insurgents. Canadian troops had recently reinforced the lockup with cement block, so Saturday's blast did not break through and no inmates escaped this time.

# Fiji braces as major tropical cyclone bears down

**SUVA, Fiji** (AP)—Cyclone Tomas battered island groups off Fiji's northern coast Monday, causing flooding, pounding seas and one death, but officials said the storm likely would only sideswipe the main islands of the South Pacific nation.

Some 6,000 residents fled to cyclone shelters ahead of the storm, which was already battering the Lau and Lomaiviti island groups, National Disaster Management Office director Pajiliai Dobui said. Power has been disrupted, roofs torn off by the winds and heavy rain was falling. A curfew was in place to minimize injuries.

A 31-year-old woman was swept away by strong ocean currents in northern Vanua Levu's Cakaudrove province late Friday after she saved her two children from a storm surge, police spokeswoman Atunaisa Sokomuri said. The woman had ignored warnings to stay away from the sea, she said.

Cyclone Tomas packed winds of up to 130 miles (205 kilometers) per hour at its center, with gusts of up to 175 mph (280 kph), Dobui said. The Category 4 storm was the same strength as Fiji's devastating Hurricane Bebe in 1972, which caused widespread damage and claimed 180 lives.

Fiji Tropical Cyclone Center senior forecaster Matt Boterhoven said Monday evening that while the outer islands were expected to be hit in the next 12-18 hours, the cyclone will sideswipe the main islands of Vanua Levu and Viti Levu as it heads northeast.

# World

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Blackout leaves millions of Chileans in darkness

**SANTIAGO, Chile** (AP)—A power failure plunged nearly the entire Chilean population into darkness Sunday night, rattling a country already anxious after last month's 8.8-magnitude quake. The outage struck around nightfall and affected a 1,200-mile (2,000-kilometer) stretch from Taltal in the north to Chiloe in the south, according to the Interior Ministry's emergency office. Officials blamed a transformer failure that caused a ripple effect and ultimately a total collapse of the Central Interconnected System grid.

### UN chief sees dangers up-close in Haiti quake camp

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon promised Haitians on Sunday that the world has not forgotten the quake-torn nation as it suffers from a shortage of shelter and growing violence in teeming camps for the homeless. Security issues and the risk of flooding and disease in the squalid tarp-and-tent cities are pressing concerns for governments and international aid groups struggling to help hundreds of thousands of victims of the Jan. 12 disaster, which killed a government-estimated 230,000 people and left 1.3 million homeless.

### Two snowmobilers dead in Canadian avalanche

**REVELSTOKE, British Columbia** (AP)—An avalanche that killed two people at an informal snowmobile rally in Canada's Rocky Mountains may have been triggered by three daredevil sledders who apparently unleashed a deadly wall of snow on up to 200 people below, witnesses said Sunday. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said an even worse tragedy may have been averted because many of the snowmobilers had come equipped with avalanche recovery equipment and dug people out even before rescuers arrived at the scene. RCMP Cpl. Dan Moskaluk told a news conference Sunday that two men are confirmed dead, not three as reported earlier in the chaotic hours after the slide. Moskaluk later said the search is over. He said they have searched for abandoned vehicles and canvassed area hotels and there is nobody that they know of left unaccounted. The slide struck around 3:30 p.m. Saturday on Boulder Mountain.

# Narcos blamed for killings of 3 with US consul tie

**CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico** (AP)—Suspected drug gang hit men separately ambushed two cars carrying families with ties to the U.S. consulate in this violent border city, killing an American couple and a Mexican man. Three young children survived, although two suffered wounds.

The slayings came amid a surge in bloodshed along Mexico's border with Texas and drew condemnation from the White House. Mexico's president expressed outrage and promised a fast investigation to find those responsible.

Authorities put suspicion on members of a gang of hit men allied with the Juarez drug cartel. That theory is based on "information exchanged with U.S. federal agencies" helping in the investigation, according to a statement Sunday from the joint mission of soldiers and federal police overseeing security in Ciudad Juarez.

While putting the blame on the drug gang, police offered no information on a possible motive in the slayings. U.S. State Department spokesman Fred Lash said only that the three dead people were at the same party before the attacks that occurred minutes apart Saturday afternoon.

Several U.S. citizens have been killed in Mexico's drug war, most of them people with family ties to Mexico. It is very rare for American government employees to be targeted, although attackers hurled grenades at the U.S. consulate in the northern city of Monterrey in 2008.

The State Department authorized U.S. government employees at Ciudad Juarez and five other U.S. consulates in northern Mexico to send family members out of the area because of concerns about rising drug violence. The cities are Tijuana, Nogales, Nuevo Laredo, Monterrey and Matamoros.

Lash said the decision was based not only on Saturday's killings but also on a wider pattern of violence and threats in northern Mexico in recent weeks. The State Department noted the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City has advised American citizens to delay unnecessary travel to parts of the Mexican states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua.

The consulate employee and her husband, both U.S. citizens, were shot to death in their car near the Santa Fe International bridge linking Ciudad Juarez with El Paso, Texas, said Vladimir Tuexi, a spokesman for the Chihuahua state prosecutors office.

AP

Soldiers stand guard at a crime scene where the crashed car of a US consulate employee sits in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Sunday, March 14, 2010.

The woman was shot in the head, while her husband suffered wounds in his neck and arm. Their baby was found unharmed in the back seat. Tuexi estimated the child was around 1 year old.

The pair was identified as consular employee Lesley A. Enriquez, 35, and her husband, Arthur H. Redelfs, 34, by Robert Cason, Redelfs' stepfather. Redelfs was a detention officer at the El Paso County Jail, he said.

Cason declined to discuss the welfare of his grandchild. "I don't want to give any more information to the psychotics out there," he said.

Tuexi said the baby was in the custody of Mexican social services.

The U.S. government did not give any details on Enriquez's job at the consulate, and Cason said he didn't know what she did there. A neighbor of Enriquez, Zonia Rivas, also didn't know.

"I do know she just went back to work about three months ago after having her baby," she said.

Ten minutes before that killing, police in another part of the city found the body of the husband of a Mexican employee of the consulate.

Jorge Alberto Salcido Cenicеros, 37, a Mexican citizen, was shot to death in his car, while his two children, ages 4 and 7, were wounded, according to the state prosecutors office. The children were hospitalized.

Civilians have increasingly gotten caught in the middle of drug gang violence that has made Ciudad Juarez one of the deadliest cities in the world, with more than 2,500 people killed last year alone.

# Reports: US wants Israel to cancel building plan

**JERUSALEM** (AP)—Israeli media reported Monday that the U.S. is pressing Israel to scrap a contentious east Jerusalem building project whose approval has touched off the most serious diplomatic feud with Washington in years.

Top U.S. officials have lined up in recent days to condemn the Israeli plan to build 1,600 apartments in east Jerusalem, the sector of the holy city that the Palestinians claim for their future capital.

The project caused a storm in Washington because it was announced during Vice President Joe Biden's visit to the region last week, badly embarrassing the U.S. and complicating its efforts to restart Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. The Palestinians immediately threatened not to join upcoming U.S.-brokered talks meant to jumpstart negotiations after a 14-month breakdown.

U.S. officials have not disclosed what steps they want Israel to take to ease the crisis, and Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev refused to comment Monday. But Israeli newspapers and radio stations said Washington wants the construction project canceled.

They also reported that the U.S. wants Israel to make a significant confidence-building gesture toward the Palestinians. Suggestions included releasing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails; turning over additional areas of the West Bank to Palestinian control; removing some of the roadblocks hampering the movement of Palestinians and goods in the West Bank; and easing the blockade on the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, media reported.

Washington, they added, also has demanded that Israel officially declare that talks with the Palestinians will deal with all the conflict's big issues, including final borders, the status of Jerusalem, and the fate of Palestinian refugees who fled or were driven from their homes during the war that followed Israel's 1948 creation.

The unusually harsh U.S. criticism has undercut Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's efforts to suggest that the crisis had passed. Israeli newspapers reported Monday that Israel's ambassador to Washington, Michael Oren, told Israeli diplomats in a conference call Saturday night that their country's relations with the U.S. haven't been so tense since 1975.

The Foreign Ministry had no immediate comment.

# Vatican denies celibacy rule led to sex scandal

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—The Vatican on Sunday denied that its celibacy requirement for priests was the root cause of the clerical sex abuse scandal convulsing the church in Europe and again defended the pope's handling of the crisis.

Suggestions that the celibacy rule was in part responsible for the "deviant behavior" of sexually abusive priests have swirled in recent days, with opinion pieces in German newspapers blaming it for fueling abuse and even Italian commentators questioning the rule.

Much of the furor was spurred by comments from one of the pope's closest advisers, Vienna archbishop Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, who called this week for an honest examination of issues like celibacy and priestly education to root out the origins of sex abuse.

"Part of it is the question of celibacy, as well as the subject of character development. And part of it is a large portion of honesty, in the church but also in society," he wrote in the online edition of his diocesan newsletter.

His office quickly stressed that Schoenborn wasn't calling into question priestly celibacy, which Pope Benedict XVI reaffirmed as recently as Friday as an "expression of the gift of oneself to God and others."

But Schoenborn has in the past shown himself receptive to arguments that a celibate priesthood is increasingly problematic for the church, primarily because it limits the number of men who seek ordination.

Last June, Schoenborn personally presented the Vatican with a lay initiative signed by prominent Austrian Catholics calling for the celibacy rule to be abolished and for married men to be allowed to become priests.

In the days following Schoenborn's editorial this week, several prominent prelates in Germany and at the Vatican shot down any suggestion that the celibacy rule had anything to do with the scandal, a point echoed Sunday by the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

"It's been established that there's no link," said the article by Bishop Giuseppe Versaldi, an emeritus professor of canon law and psychology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.

# Hoax news report on Russia invasion panics Georgia

**TBILISI, Georgia** (AP)—Georgians have been panicked by a hoax television news program announcing the Russian army had invaded and killed President Mikhail Saakashvili.

Russia and Georgia fought a brief but bloody war in 2008, a conflict still fresh in the minds of Georgians who have since seen two de facto independent provinces erect firm borders.

The private television station Imedi—Georgia's No. 3 channel—showed the faux report Saturday night.

A few media outlets picked up on the story, and the channel ran a ticker during a subsequent entertainment show stating the report "did not correspond with reality." There was no explanation.

Tbilisi resident Gocha Khachiuri, 43, said he had to take heart pills after hearing the news.

Focus

# Wave of temblors doesn't signal more seismic havoc, say experts

By SUZANNE BOHAN
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

**WALNUT CREEK, Calif.**—Geologists have a logical term for the recent rash of devastating earthquakes around the world: They're called clusters, and scientists recognize that such groupings do occur.

The cluster seemed to start with a magnitude 6.5 quake outside Eureka, Calif., on Jan. 9. Then a magnitude 7.0 earthquake devastated Haiti on Jan. 12. A similar-size quake struck Japan on Feb. 26, followed the next day by a powerful magnitude 8.8 temblor rocking Chile. A magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit Taiwan on March 4 and a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck Indonesia the next day. Then, Monday, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake shook Turkey.

Despite the unnerving series of recent quakes, it's not a sign that more seismic havoc is imminent. Although large earthquakes are capable of triggering faraway temblors, the subsequent quakes are typically well under magnitude 4, geologists say. So when major earthquakes occur close in time but thousands of miles apart, it's considered coincidence.

Stephen Kirby, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Menlo Park, Calif., compared it to a long series of coin tosses.

"Most geoscientists feel this is just a statistical variation that you would expect with a random process," Kirby said. "In other words, if you take a penny and you flip it, sometimes you'll get five heads in a row and sometimes you'll get five or six tails in a row. But averaged over time, you get 50-50 heads and tails."

The seismic waves from a large earthquake rapidly diminish in strength over distances, and they've only been observed to cause tiny quakes in distant lands, explained David Hill, a retired scientist with the USGS.

In California, he said, the Chilean earthquake has triggered a number of small earthquakes in the southern end of the Sierra Nevada, in the Coso Geothermal Field area, as well as a number of roughly magnitude 1 earthquakes in the Geysers Geothermal Field above Calistoga. Most of these are too small to feel, although seismic monitoring equipment picks them up.

There's one scenario, however, in which a big quake can unleash another large one, for instance magnitude 7 or higher, but it's only in nearby areas through a process called a "stress transfer."

"When a large earthquake happens, it changes the stress field in the vicinity and in some cases can load an adjacent fault that hasn't slipped yet," Hill said. "And that's been documented a number of times around the world."

Four quakes that hit Argentina in the days after the Chilean temblor are "good candidates" for having been triggered by stress transfer, Kirby said.

Hill agreed that given what's known about earthquakes today, the recent set of large earthquakes is rightly ascribed to chance. But he doesn't unequivocally rule out a connection between large earthquakes close in time but a great distance apart.

"It's not completely out of the question that it could indeed happen," he said. But for major shaking to trigger a large earthquake elsewhere on the globe the stress buildup along the fault line of the second earthquake would already have to be on the verge of breaking.

"(It) would have to be close to failure anyway," Hill said. "It's basically what some people refer to as a 'clock advance.' That stress has built up slowly over time, and some small change in stress happens and advances the time of the bigger earthquake."

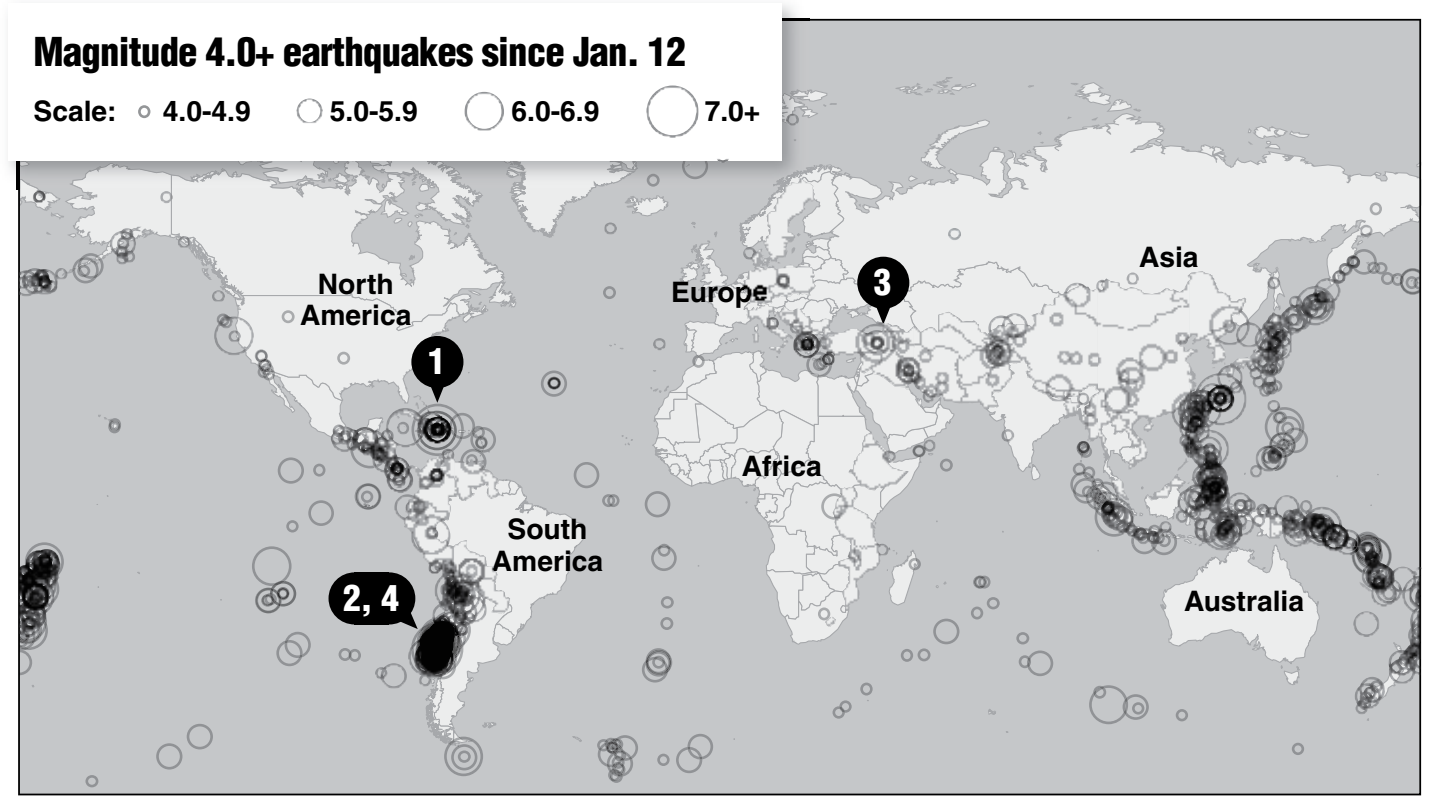
But the existence of "clock advance" quakes remains in the realm of the hypothetical, as there's no way to measure if such a quake has ever occurred. And not every scientist agrees they are even plausible.

"Data trump everything," said Ross Stein, a geophysicist with the USGS. "But data that I've seen thus far do not support the idea of a large quake triggering another large earthquake around the globe."

This year's earthquake toll may appear higher than normal, experts note, because many struck in heavily populated regions, leading to massive casualties in some areas and billions of dollars in damage. But, in fact, there's nothing unusual about the quake numbers, as on average every year there's one quake somewhere in the world that's at least magnitude 8. And every year on average there are 17 earthquakes from magnitude 7 to 7.9, but most typically receive little coverage because they occur undersea or in sparsely populated areas.

"That's what counts, the occurrence of large, damaging earthquakes," Stein said.

## Powerful earthquakes prevalent in 2010

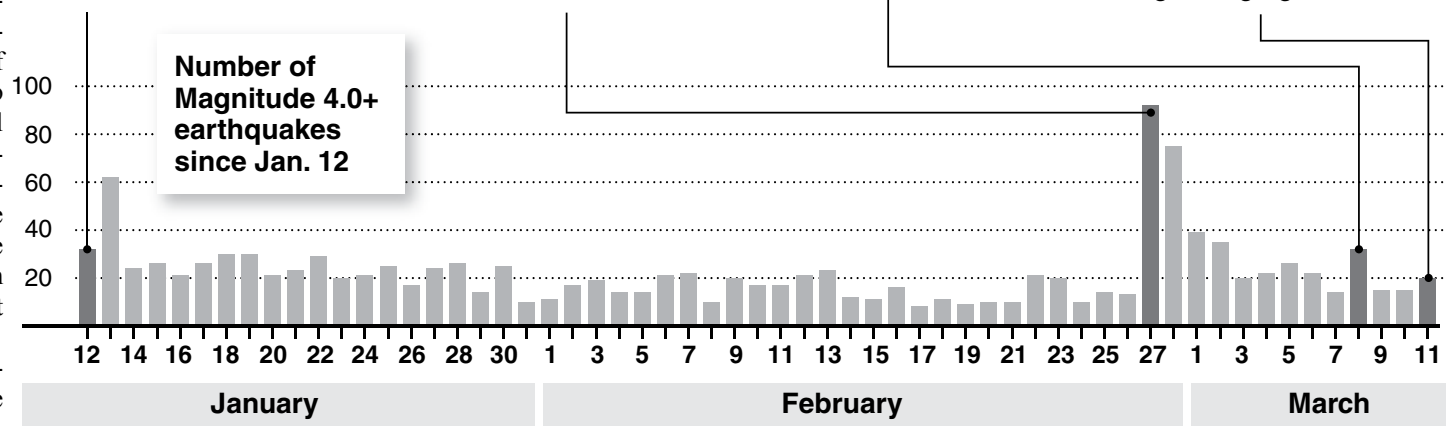



**1 Jan. 12** Haiti earthquake kills hundreds of thousands, reduces much of the country to rubble

**2 Feb. 27** Chile earthquake off the coast kills hundreds, triggers tsunami warnings across the Pacific

**3 March 8** Magnitude 6.1 earthquake kills 51 in eastern Turkey

**4 March 11** Chile aftershocks rock presidential inauguration, send coastal residents fleeing for high ground




### Fewer quakes, but higher magnitudes

The magnitude 8.8 earthquake that struck Chile on Feb. 27 was the most powerful quake on record since a magnitude 9.0 temblor off the coast of Indonesia that triggered the 2004 tsunami

© 2010 MCT

Source: USGS
Graphic: Max Rust and Chad Yoder, Chicago Tribune

**Number of magnitude 4.0+ earthquakes through March 11**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 2,476 |
| 2007 | 2,727 |
| 2008 | 2,513 |
| 2009 | 2,059 |
| 2010 | 1,611 |

**Number of magnitude 6.0+ earthquakes through March 11**

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006 | 25 |
| 2007 | 30 |
| 2008 | 38 |
| 2009 | 27 |
| 2010 | 48 |

# Overdrive

## Civic retains charm

By TOM INCANTALUPO
NEWSDAY

It's no surprise that sales of Honda Civics fell last year; the new-car market was a horror. But the decline also in its share of the market suggests that some consumers are being lured away from what has been the benchmark of small cars.

As the Civic's share slipped, those of some competitors, including the Toyota Corolla and Ford Focus, rose.

Five days and a few hundred miles in the current-generation Civic, which arrived as a 2006 model, suggest a few reasons for that.

The Civic's strengths are its elegant looks, a bright and airy interior and a comfortable ride, thanks to a suspension that takes the middle road between being firm for tight handling and overly soft for comfort. Civics got an exterior and interior freshening for '09 and no changes at all for 2010.

Its reputation for quality, well earned, remains strong. Dashboard controls couldn't be any simpler to operate or any more conveniently located.

But, now in its fourth model year, the Civic is due for a redo—and will get one for the 2011 or 2012 model year, according to some published reports. Honda's not saying.

Flaws include the thick, sloping front roof pillars mandated by the steeply raked windshield. The pillars are always in the way during turns and tend to leave the driver short on peripheral vision when approaching intersections.

The Civic's highly assisted power steering is short on feedback—a sense of what the front tires are experiencing. The engine is on the raspy side, and the tester emitted the foul odor of a hot catalytic converter when it was stressed, as when lugging uphill in top gear. To get stability control and brake assist, Honda makes you opt for one of the most expensive versions, including the EX-L.

Engine power is just adequate and economy is OK; I averaged 31.4 miles per gallon in mostly highway miles. The 197-hp. Civic Si is worth considering.

The Civic isn't a slam-dunk winner anymore, and that means some careful shopping is in order. The Focus, for example, is a strong entry—one that, unfortunately, is too often overlooked by import-centric shoppers. The Mazda 3 is another excellent contender—fun to drive, as are most Mazdas. Others: the Hyundai Elantra, Volkswagen Golf and Jetta and the Subaru Impreza. The VWs offer driving fun. The Subaru has all-wheel drive.

The Chevrolet Cobalt, in its final year, still is popular among the budget-conscious. It offers 155 hp. and competitive fuel economy. Its replacement, the Cruze, is due at dealerships in summer.

Civics start at $16,165 with stick shift.

The government gives the Civic sedan five out of five stars for frontal and rear-passenger side protection and four stars for driver's-side protection. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety calls it a top safety pick.

*Tom Incantalupo reviews new cars for Newsday in Melville, N.Y. He can be reached at tom.incantalupo@newsday.com.*

The Honda Civic's strengths are its elegant looks, a bright and airy interior and a comfortable ride.

### NUTS & BOLTS

**Vehicle tested:**

- **Engine:** 1.8-liter, four-cylinder 140 hp.
- **Fuel:** Regular
- **Transmission:** Five-speed automatic, front-wheel drive
- **Safety:** Six air bags; 4-wheel disc brakes w/antilock; tire pressure monitoring; daytime running lamps
- **Place of assembly:** Greenburg, Ind.
- **Trunk:** 12 cubic feet
- **EPA fuel economy estimates**: 25 mpg, city; 36 highway
- **Price as driven:** $20,965 with freight
- **Bottom line:** Top-flight but a bit of gray at the temples.

## Treat symptoms first for Toyota with shaky steering

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: I have experienced something frightening with my '99 Camry. When I turn at an intersection, I feel the power steering cutting out, and I have to hang on to the steering wheel to complete the turn. The garage mechanic says there's plenty of fluid and cannot find any reason for this. It doesn't always happen; it's when I first start out in the morning after it's been out all night in our subzero temperatures.**

**ANSWER:** The problem may be in the power steering rack-and-pinion assembly, but try dealing with the symptoms first. Add a power-steering fluid treatment like SeaFoam to the reservoir to see if the solvent/cleaning action improves steering performance. If this doesn't work, the power steering system can be flushed and refilled with fresh fluid, removing debris and contamination in the system.

Also, make sure the drive belt for the power steering pump isn't slipping under full load; this would create similar symptoms.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: I own a 2005 Chrysler Town & Country with the 3.8-liter V6 engine and 105,000 miles. Occasionally, after fueling, the engine will "stumble" as if it is out of fuel — and then it will run fine. The fuel mileage is a constant 24 to 25 miles per gallon on the highway. I ran injector cleaner through the system, but it still happens. The dealer says the system has no filters, and the dealer has had no similar complaints.**

**A:** During hot restarts, a time delay from the computer prevents the purge valve solenoid from allowing fuel vapor from the fuel tank stored in the charcoal canister to be drawn into the intake manifold. The dealer should check the proportional purge valve and the evaporative emission system, and you should make sure you're not unintentionally overfilling the fuel tank. It's called "fuel packing," and it occurs when owners continue to add fuel to the tank after the nozzle's automatic shutoff has stopped the flow of fuel. By trying to squeeze the last tenth of a gallon into the tank, the vapor storage system fills with liquid fuel, creating similar symptoms.

When refueling, wait 5 seconds after the automatic shutoff, add just a bit more to the nearest nickel, and stop.

■ ■ ■ ■

**Q: I have a 2000 Chevy Malibu with the 3.1-liter engine. When I drive straight at high speed, I can hear a loud noise coming from the left front side of the car. When I slow down or turn the wheel to the left, the noise gets even louder. I have changed the left front bearing assembly, but the noise is still there. What's causing this? Could it be something inside the CV joint?**

**A:** Possibly, but that type of droning noise isn't typical of a worn CV joint. But you might identify the problem by placing the car on a drive-on lift so that it's sitting on its tires, then grabbing and pushing up and down on the inboard and outboard ends of the drive shaft, feeling for movement or play in the inner or outer CV joint.

Far more common is a droning noise from a worn wheel bearing/hub assembly, but you've already replaced that. So, make sure there's no physical contact between the inner sidewall of the tire and the spring/strut assembly, or any rubbing between the tire and the plastic inner fender. Also, sway the front tires from side to side to make sure the noise is not coming from irregular wear or belt damage in the tire itself.

*Paul Brand is author of How to Repair Your Car and an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*

## UNDER THE HOOD

### Maintenance not necessary to address 'check engine' light

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**QUESTION: I'd like your advice on something. My "check engine" light came on about a week ago. I took the car to the dealer and they said I'd need to do the 60,000 mile service before they could fix the "check engine" light problem. It's a bit over the mileage—71,000, and dollars are just too tight right now to do more than an oil change and try to get the "check engine" light fixed. Is this right? Could the 60,000-mile service turn off that light?—K.T.**

**ANSWER:** Hmmm. Dollars must be tight for the dealer as well, if they need to resort to such upsell tactics. It's always a good idea to bring a vehicle up to current maintenance status prior to performing an engine performance diagnosis, but being hardnosed about it just isn't reasonable.

Let's say you have been feeling an occasional engine misfire, and the DTC (diagnostic trouble code) also points this way. If you were due for spark plug replacement, it would make perfect sense to do the maintenance first—with a little luck—fresh spark plugs would fix the check engine light. On the other hand, should the DTC point to a fault in the fuel vapor management system, changing the spark plugs or transmission fluid, or lubing the door latches certainly would have no effect.

Retrieving a DTC from a vehicle with an illuminated check engine light is a very quick and simple process using a scan tool. This could be a sophisticated model or a cheapie OBD-II scan tool, which costs less than $100 at the neighborhood auto-parts store. Once one obtains the code, a look through the code definition chart—or a quick Web search—will indicate the general fault area. The definition will read something like this: "P0446: Evaporative Emission Control System Vent Control Circuit Malfunction." While further diagnosis is clearly necessary (a skilled tech, following a diagnostic flow chart, using appropriate test equipment) one could safely assume the fault has nothing to do with pending maintenance.

It sounds like you threw it in reverse in the service driveway and that a DTC has not yet been obtained. Retrieving the code would be good way to proceed. Do you have a neighbor or friend with a cheapie scan tool? Many auto parts stores will retrieve the code for free, on the assumption you'll purchase any needed parts from them. In a few cases, such as the vent code above, one could roll the dice, forgoing further diagnosis, and simply renew the fairly inexpensive vent solenoid. In other cases, with a less specific fault description, or expensive parts, it's wise to do it right and continue with a professional diagnosis.

I won't scold you for being behind on maintenance. Do your best to keep up with what's most important, such as oil changes, and every six months on these will be fine. Timing belt replacement needs to be taken seriously as well. It is important to have a skilled set of eyes, ears, and nose give the car a periodic look-over for potential problems such as belts, hoses, fluid leakage, brake condition, etc. You'll sleep better knowing all is well, or what next to budget for.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*

# Life & Style

## Woods responders concerned about domestic violence

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**ORLANDO, Florida** (AP)—The ambulance crew that responded after golfer Tiger Woods crashed his sport utility vehicle would not allow his wife to ride with him to the hospital because they suspected domestic violence, documents released Friday by the Florida Highway Patrol show.

But a police officer who responded said he didn't know where the crew got that information because he never heard it from anyone at the scene.

The reports also showed Woods' wife, Elin, turned over two bottles of pain pills to police after the Nov. 27 crash outside the couple's suburban Orlando home.

Woods crashed his sport utility vehicle into a fire hydrant at 2:30 a.m., and officers found him lying in the street. The couple told investigators Elin Woods smashed the back window of the vehicle with a golf club so she could unlock a door and pull him out.

Woods, the world's No. 1 golfer, has strenuously denied his wife abused him.

"Elin never hit me that night or any other night. There has never been an episode of domestic violence in our marriage, ever," Woods said during a televised apology to his wife, family and fans last month.

Woods

The crash led to disclosures that Woods had affairs with several women. He was charged with careless driving and fined $164.

The report showed Health Central Hospital, which treated Woods after the crash, refused to release blood test results to investigators without a warrant. The state attorney's office wouldn't request one, saying there wasn't enough probable cause that a crime had been committed.

Cpl. Thomas R. Dewitt, one of the highway patrol investigators, also wrote in his report that he asked for videotape from a security camera at the Woods' home.

"There were two cameras that should have documented (the vehicle) leaving the driveway and portions of the crash," Dewitt wrote.

But the golfer's lawyer, Mark NeJame, told him the couple didn't know if the camera worked and couldn't figure out how to remove the tape.

NeJame told Dewitt he had looked at monitors inside the home and they were blank. There was no indication whether officers got the video despite several requests.

NeJame said he had no comment on the report.

Messages left with the hospital's ambulance service and the highway patrol were not immediately returned.

Before the latest report by the highway patrol, the focus had begun to shift in recent weeks to when Woods would return to professional golf.

Two people with knowledge of Woods' plans told The Associated Press on Thursday that he intends to remain out of golf at least until the Masters in early April. The two people spoke on condition of anonymity because only Woods is supposed to release such information.

Woods has been practicing at Isleworth near his Orlando home the last two weeks, and swing coach Hank Haney flew there recently to work with him.

Woods has not played since Nov. 15, when he won the Australian Masters in Melbourne for his 82nd career victory.

## History channel offering series to schools

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The History channel says it will give a free DVD copy of its sprawling 12-hour series on American history to any school in the country that wants one.

The network is launching a broad educational outreach to accompany "America The Story of Us," which premieres April 25. Before the series starts, it will mail posters, a teacher's guide and family viewing guide to 35,000 high schools and middle schools.

"America The Story of Us" is the most expensive project in the network's history, although Nancy Dubuc, the president and general manager, would not say how much is being spent. In scope, she called the series the broadest look at the nation's history on television since Alistair Cooke's "Personal History" aired in the early 1970s.

Rather than have historians stand in front of a camera, the series will recreate many of the events that it talks about, either through live action or computer animation. The network has shot scenes on three continents with 1,641 actors, extras and stuntmen.

Dubuc said she was particularly intrigued by the three-dimensional animation depicting workers putting a face on the Statue of Liberty. Other scenes that will be recreated include the crashing of a meteor into the Appalachian Mountains, the British Navy's bombardment of New York harbor during the Revolutionary War and Western plains teeming with herds of buffalo.

"It's a story we wanted to tell in epic proportions," Dubuc said.

She said the time felt right historically to produce the series, and it allows the network to make an important statement as it establishes itself as the go-to location for historical programming.

"There's no question we have been living in historic times the last couple of years, maybe more so than ever before in our recent memory," she said. "We just felt like the time was right to look at how we had gotten here."

The series also should have a long shelf life at the History channel—expect an epic number of reruns—and Dubuc said she wanted to make sure it resonated with people who are just learning about these events through their textbooks.

Any school that wants a copy for use in its curriculum, "all they have to do is request it, and they will have it," she said.

Beyond that giveaway, the network also is working with the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to make $25,000 in scholarships available to students creating a video presentation of how their personal stories link with American history. Another $25,000 will be offered to teachers who offer innovative lesson plans in American history. Local libraries are also eligible for grants for creating displays advertising the series.

## Leonard 'Spock' Nimoy: Oscar snub of 'Star Trek' is illogical

By MARIAN LIU
THE SEATTLE TIMES

**SEATTLE**—One of the most beloved aliens in the pop-culture universe touched down in Seattle over the weekend.

As "Star Trek's" Spock, Leonard Nimoy has been changing perceptions for decades, making it cool to be different. The 79-year-old guest stars Saturday and Sunday at Emerald City Comi-Con, a comic-book and pop-culture convention that attracts thousands of fans every year.

Recently, he talked to The Seattle Times, taking silly Spock questions in stride.

**Q: How do you feel about passing the torch of Spock to Zachary Quinto, who plays a young version of the character in the 2009 remake of "Star Trek"?**

**A:** I enjoyed it thoroughly. I thought that it had a wonderful script, a great cast, wonderful people. Zachary Quinto, I think was a wonderful actor. ... I was very flattered with how the character was written, with great dignity and strength and purpose and intelligence. I'm very pleased that the character is in good hands.

**Q: Do you think "Star Trek" was robbed at Oscars?**

**A:** It's sad that "Star Trek" has been so unrecognized over so many years. I was delighted that at least it won a makeup award. ... I think that I'm correct in saying that that's the first Academy Award that "Star Trek" has ever won. ... There've been some wonderful achievements in technology, in special effects, photography and story ... but "Avatar" was an enormous accomplishment as a motion picture and still it did not win best director or best film.

**Q: How do you feel about being typecast as the super-rational Spock?**

**A:** I've always thought of myself as a character actor. I never saw myself as a leading man, or romantic lead kind of guy. ... On the other hand, there are certain types of roles people would expect I would be able to manage and I take that as a good thing. ... Ever since "Star Trek" went on the air, I haven't had any problems finding work, so for me, typecasting was a good thing. I found a niche for myself as an actor.

**Q: What is your personal balance between logic and emotion?**

**A:** (laughs for a while) That's just funny. (more raucous laughing) I've worked on that balance all the time. (more laughing)

## Streep presents award to ex-hostage Betancourt

**UNITED NATIONS** (AP)—It was hard to tell who was more impressed when film star Meryl Streep presented a leadership award to Ingrid Betancourt, the former Colombian presidential candidate who endured years of captivity in jungle camps.

Betancourt was one of four women honored Saturday night at the inaugural DVF Awards, created by fashion designer Diane von Furstenberg to honor women working for change in their countries.

For the event, the designer took a United Nations reception room and made it almost unrecognizable—transforming it into a nightclub scene with brightly patterned couches, small trees and pink-hued candlelight.

AP
In this photo provided by StarPix, actress Meryl Streep presents a leadership award to Ingrid Betancourt at the DVF Awards Saturday, March 13, 2010 at United Nations headquarters in New York.

Betancourt, a French-Colombian who was running for president of Colombia when she was kidnapped in 2002 by leftist FARC guerrillas, quipped that she didn't know who was more impressive, the presenters or the women being honored.

"It's like a dream, being here with Meryl Streep," she said.

As for Streep, she wondered how Betancourt endured years of captivity in the jungle without losing her spirit. "Myself, I can't imagine not being destroyed by this," Streep said.

Betancourt, 48, was freed in 2008 in a dramatic rescue operation and now lives in France, where she was raised.

She said in an interview before the awards ceremony that she isn't ready to return to live in Colombia. "Not now," she said. "We'll see what life brings." Nor does she think it's time to seek political office again: "I'm not ready for politics right now," said the former Colombian senator.

Sadiqa Basiri Saleem, an Afghan women's rights activist, was another recipient of a DVF Award, receiving her statue from CNN anchor Christiane Amanpour. She said she hoped to use her award money from the Diller-von Furstenberg Family Foundation—$50,000—toward building the first Afghan women's college.

The other honorees were Danielle Saint-Lot, an activist in Haiti, whose award was presented by Melanne Verveer, the U.S. ambassador-at-large for global women's affairs, and Katherine Chon, head of the U.S.-based Polaris Project, which combats human trafficking. Her award was given by ABC's "Good Morning America" co-host Robin Roberts.

Betancourt was joined at the ceremony by Marc Gonsalves, one of three captured U.S. military contractors who were held with her in the jungle. One of his fellow captives wrote harshly of her, accusing Betancourt of being haughty and self-absorbed in the jungle, in a book last year about their experiences in captivity.

Betancourt told The Associated Press she has finished writing a new book. And if a movie were to be made about her life, she was asked, would she want to be played by Streep? "Can you imagine?" she asked. "I would love that."

Of her time in captivity, she told Saturday's audience that she had learned something important.

"When you have lost everything, when everything that you care about has been taken from you, when you feel your life doesn't belong to you anymore, there's something that nobody can take from you: the freedom to choose who you want to be."

Von Furstenberg said the DVF awards will become an annual event.

"I've been wanting to do awards for a long time," said the designer, best known for her bold prints and wrap dresses.

She chose this time because Tina Brown, editor of the Daily Beast Web site, was holding a woman's conference in New York for women's rights activists from around the world. Many of the participants were present at Saturday's awards ceremony.

"Every woman in this room is so incredible, it humbles me," said von Furstenberg.

# James Badge Dale honored to play Marine in HBO's 'The Pacific'

By LUAINE LEE
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**PASADENA, Calif.**—It isn't every guy who could lose his mother at 15, survive 11 car accidents and do poorly at five different high schools, and still be called lucky. But actor James Badge Dale is just that—literally.

Not only has the 31-year-old enjoyed a season as Kiefer Sutherland's partner on "24," but he's starring in HBO's stunning miniseries, "The Pacific," premiering Sunday.

Dale (who is called Badge) plays real-life Pfc. Robert "Lucky" Leckie, who fought with the First Marine Division in the blood bath of Guadalcanal.

"It's an honor to play Leckie—for all of us to play any one of these men and to tell the story," he says, "but it is hard to tell the story of a man who was actually there and Leckie had passed away. I couldn't talk to him. All I had was his book of memoirs. And it's hard to balance what I believe I owe him, what I believe he believed the story was, and honor him," says Dale, on a sunny verandah of a hotel here.

Dale came by acting honestly. His mother was actress Anita Morris, his dad dancer-choreographer Grover Dale.

"It was always a family business. Even my grandmother was an actress at one time. It just felt normal to me."

But he was a troubled teen. "I think I went through some very dark moments growing up dealing with my mother's death, dealing with my own behavior, my own anger and being in some violent situations. And I've made it through the other side," he says.

(HBO/MCT)

James Badge Dale, center, and Joshua Helman, right, in HBO's 10-part series, "The Pacific".

"At the time I thought it was everybody else's fault but mine. Looking back, it was me. I took some time off and got my life together and was lucky enough to land a spot on a hockey team and went off and played hockey for two years in Utah and then British Columbia. It was a great two years and that got me a scholarship to a Division 3 school in New York."

He says he turned his life around because he was miserable. "I realized that nobody is going to do this for me. I need to stand up, pull myself up by my bootstraps, and I need to straighten up and quit blaming everybody else. Sometimes you just come to a point where you're ready for a change."

An injury dashed his hockey career, and Dale returned to his first love, acting. While he was studying and dredging for acting gigs in New York, he worked in construction.

"What I loved about construction is you can do whatever you want. I don't have to put on a nice face. I don't have to talk to people if I don't want. Guys are mean. Guys are surly but we have a good time. Now I'm bad at construction, mind you. I can't build anything. I'm worried about the people who are living in the houses I built. I was never very good at it," he smiles.

"I'm not good at math. I couldn't read blueprints. But I work hard and I carry loads and am very good at demolition, but there was something beautiful at the end of the day, standing on top of the building, watching the sunset—those quiet moments to yourself when you can look around and say, 'I've worked hard today. I'm dirty, I'm sweaty, I'm tired, but I had something to do with this. I built something.' There's a romanticism to it."

He did wangle an independent film that paid pretty well and planned to take the summer off. "'I'm going to have a wonderful summer and hopefully I'll land another job by the end of summer.' I did this film, five days in New York. Less than a week after the film was over, I was so bored out of my mind I called my boss in construction and said, 'I gotta come back, man, I'm so bored.'

"So they let me come back and drive the trucks and knock walls down. But I've been really lucky. I think the longest I've gone since then without a job was six months after I got off the show '24.'"

He was 24 years old and thought that "24" would be the entree to a blooming career. "Once I got the job on '24' I said, 'Now I'm a hirable actor.' And I couldn't get a job afterwards ... I remember I was frustrated when another job didn't come through, I said, 'I'm done with Hollywood, life's more important than this. This doesn't matter if I work or if I don't. You're not judging me as a person I'm not going to let you judge me as an actor either. And the moment I made that shift I started working as an actor again."

Dale says he's recovering from the end of a serious relationship. "Everyone says don't date an actress. The thing is, I'm always working with actresses. I love actresses, they're beautiful. I love beautiful artistic women, I love that. If you date someone who's not an actress there's a whole different set of problems. Suddenly they're wondering why you're leaving town all the time. 'Why are you leaving town and all of a sudden you have to kiss this other woman?' At least with an actor and actress dating each other there's an understanding of the job."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Remember Me
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Emilie de Ravin
Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
In the romantic drama Remember Me, Robert Pattinson plays Tyler, a rebellious young man in New York City who has a strained relationship with his father (Pierce Brosnan) ever since tragedy separated their family. Tyler didn't think anyone could possibly understand what he was going through until the day he met Ally (Emilie de Ravin) through an unusual twist of fate. Love was the last thing on his mind, but as her spirit unexpectedly heals and inspires him, he begins to fall for her. Through their love, he begins to find happiness and meaning in his life.

The Green Zone
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:25 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Matt Damon, Greg Kinnear
Drama • Rated R
Synopsis
United 93 director Paul Greengrass explores the aftermath of the Iraq invasion in this feature adaptation of author Rajiv Chandrasekaran's literary exposé of the same name. A one-time Baghdad bureau chief of the Washington Post, Chandrasekaran was present as American forces attempted to set up a provisional government on the grounds surrounding former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's opulent palace. The resulting governing body, according to critics, existed in a bubble so far removed from the grim realities of the Iraq War that it failed to properly assess the needs of the people.

She's Out Of My League
Friday 4:20 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10
Jay Baruchel, Alice Eve
Comedy • Rated R

Paano Na Kaya
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Kim Chiu, Gerald Anderson
Romance • Rated NR

★ ★ ★

Alice in Wonderland
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15
Johnny Depp, Anne Hathaway
Fantasy • Rated PG

Dear John
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:55
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:55
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
Channing Tatum, Amanda Seyfried
Drama • Rated PG 13

Shutter Island
Friday 9:45
Saturday 9:45
Sunday
Mon thru Thurs
Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo
Thriller • Rated R

Cop Out
Friday 4:25 7:20
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bruce Willis, Tracy Morgan
Comedy • Rated R

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# Penn spends serious time helping post-quake Haiti

By JONATHAN M. KATZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—Look closely at the foreigners buzzing around a hospital tent above one of Haiti's biggest earthquake-refugee camps and a face stands out: There, carrying the box of supplies, that's Sean Penn.

Now he's guiding a Haitian girl to waiting doctors. Now he's lobbying the chief of U.N. peacekeeping operations to provide better security for the camp's 45,000 people. And now he's talking to the press.

"These people are going to have nowhere to go, by and large, in the rainy season," the Oscar-winning actor told The Associated Press. "The efforts that we've seen ... have been extraordinary—down the line. But this is an impossible kind of situation."

The 49-year-old actor came to Haiti about a week after the Jan. 12 quake killed a government-estimated 230,000 people and made 1.3 million homeless. He's left just a a few times since—mostly for Haiti-related meetings, he said, and to present the Oscar for best actress—and doesn't plan to leave again until mid-April.

His blue-shirted workers with the newly formed Jenkins-Penn Haiti Relief Organization provide medical care, water filters and food. On Sunday, they opened a health clinic for mothers and victims of a growing sexual assault epidemic.

"As long as this camp is here, we'll stay here. When this camp's not here anymore then we'll have to be where we are accessible to people," Penn said.

The ridge where the group is based is a short but taxing walk uphill from an increasingly fetid sprawl of makeshift tarp-and-tent homes. Thousands of families came to the valley golf course in the days after the quake, following the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division and its food distributions onto the steep country club grounds.

The group got a major boost Sunday in a visit by U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He toured the facilities with Penn and actress-turned-aid worker Maria Bello—best known among the thinning crowd of U.S. soldiers for her turn in "Coyote Ugly."

Penn had never been to Haiti before—"It was just, you know, I saw ten minutes of news and we started organizing," he said.—but after two months he talks like a veteran volunteer.

"I don't think that anybody who hasn't been in places like this really understands what poverty is, and what a real lack of infrastructure is," he said.

But he speaks more freely than most aid workers do, decrying disaster profiteers and corrupt local officials who siphon aid, calling for more floored tents to help families at risk for disease and floods, and warning that recent outbursts of violence in the camp could be signs of rising tension.

When a Haitian reporter walks up and asks him about his personal accomplishments in Haiti, the actor cringes.

"What have I been doing? Well, I've spent the last 20 minutes talking to you."

He turns around, and goes back to work.

AP

In this file film publicity image released by Disney, Helena Bonham Carter is shown in a scene from the film, "Alice in Wonderland."

# 'Alice' extends No. 1 stay with $62M

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Alice is still ruling the movie palace.

Johnny Depp and Tim Burton's "Alice in Wonderland" easily remained the No. 1 weekend draw with $62 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. The Disney fantasy has climbed to a $208.6 million total domestically, becoming the first $200 million hit released this year.

In its second weekend in theaters, "Alice in Wonderland" pulled ahead of the $206.5 million domestic haul of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" to become the top-grossing of Depp and Burton's seven films together, which include "Edward Scissorhands," "Sweeney Todd" and "Corpse Bride."

"I believe it's literally the magical, if you would, pairing of Tim and Johnny," said Chuck Viane, head of distribution for Disney. "When you take those two, they always seem to make something really out of the ordinary."

"Alice in Wonderland" added $76 million overseas to bring its international total to $221 million and its worldwide gross to $430 million.

A rush of new movies had so-so openings, led by Matt Damon's Iraq War thriller "Green Zone," which debuted at No. 2 with $14.5 million domestically. Released by Universal, "Green Zone" stars Damon as the leader of a U.S. Army team who stumbles onto a conspiracy over the search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Paramount's romantic comedy "She's Out of My League" debuted at No. 3 with $9.6 million. The movie stars Jay Baruchel as a geek in an unlikely romance with a babe.

"Twilight" star Robert Pattinson's romantic drama "Remember Me" opened at No. 4 with $8.3 million. The Summit Entertainment release stars Pattinson and "Lost" co-star Emilie de Ravin in a dark story of young lovers with tragedy in their past.

In its fourth weekend, Paramount's "Shutter Island," the latest collaboration between Leonardo DiCaprio and Martin Scorsese, was No. 5 with $8.1 million, raising its domestic total to $108 million.

Debuting at No. 6 with $7.6 million was Fox Searchlight's comedy "Our Family Wedding," starring America Ferrera as a Hispanic bride marrying a black man.

"Alice in Wonderland" took in nearly as much as the rest of the top-10 movies combined.

"It's like this great divide between the No. 1 and 2 films, which says that without `Alice in Wonderland' in the marketplace, we'd be hurting right now," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.com. "By itself, it's really propelling huge box office."

1. "**Alice in Wonderland**," $62 million.
2. "**Green Zone**," $14.5 million.
3. "**She's Out of My League**," $9.6 million.
4. "**Remember Me**," $8.3 million.
5. "**Shutter Island**," $8.1 million.
6. "**Our Family Wedding**," $7.6 million.
7. "**Avatar**," $6.6 million.
8. "**Brooklyn's Finest**," $4.3 million.
9. "**Cop Out**," $4.2 million.
10. "**The Crazies**," $3.7 million.

Hollywood's business soared, with overall revenues at $144 million, up 43 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Race to Witch Mountain" led with a $24.4 million debut.

For the year, revenues are at $2.24 billion, up 9 percent compared to receipts last year, when Hollywood took in a record $10.6 billion.

Factoring in higher admission prices, movie attendance this year is running 6.7 percent ahead of 2009's, according to Hollywood.com. Before "Alice in Wonderland" opened, attendance was lagging slightly behind last year's.

"In just a couple of weeks, `Alice' has turned the entire marketplace around almost singlehandedly," Dergarabedian said.

James Cameron's science-fiction sensation remained a strong draw after nearly three months in theaters, taking in $6.6 million to raise its domestic total to $730.3 million. The 20th Century Fox release has topped $2.6 billion worldwide.

Summit Entertainment's "The Hurt Locker," which beat "Avatar" for best picture at the Academy Awards, got a slight box-office bump from its Oscar triumph. The Iraq War drama, which is out on DVD but came back to theaters for Oscar season, pulled in $828,000, raising its box-office total to $15.7 million.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

## SHOWBIZ OBITUARY

### 'Mission: Impossible' star Peter Graves dies in LA

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Peter Graves, star of the television series "Mission Impossible" and the "Airplane" films, has died. Graves' publicist, Sandy Brokaw, says the actor died Sunday shortly after returning to his Los Angeles home from brunch with his family. He was 83. Graves was best known for his portrayal of Jim Phelps, leader of a gang of special agents who battled evil conspirators in the long-running television series "Mission: Impossible." Normally cast as a hero, he turned in an unforgettable performance early in his career as the treacherous Nazi spy in Billy Wilder's 1953 prisoner-of-war drama "Stalag 17." He also masterfully lampooned his straight-arrow image when he portrayed bumbling airline pilot Clarence Oveur in the 1980 disaster movie spoof "Airplane!"

### MSNBC host Keith Olbermann's dad dies in NYC at 80

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The father of MSNBC host Keith Olbermann has died in New York City at age 80. Theodore C. Olbermann was thrust into the nation's health care debate through commentaries made by his son on television. Keith Olbermann says the former architect died Saturday of complications from colon surgery. Theodore Olbermann's wife of nearly 60 years, Marie Olbermann, died last year. Keith Olbermann had talked on his weeknight cable news show about his father's experiences in the hospital and how his family dealt with them. Three weeks ago he talked on TV about how his suffering father had asked to be killed.

### Photographer Charles Moore dies at 79

**WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.** (AP)—Charles Moore, a photographer who chronicled the civil rights movement, has died. He was 79. John Edgley of Edgley Cremation Services in West Palm Beach, Fla., confirmed that Moore died Thursday. The Times Daily of Florence, Ala., reported that Moore began covering the movement as the lone photographer at the scene when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested in Montgomery in 1958. In the years that followed, the Alabama native took some of the most enduring shots of the movement. For much of his career, he worked for Life magazine. In 1991, a collection of his photographs along with his biography was published: "Powerful Days: The Civil Rights Photography of Charles Moore." A memorial service is planned later this year.

# Trips home fill with family, leaving little time for friend

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

**DEAR ABBY**: I return to my hometown at least twice a year to visit my large extended family. When I do, I have tried to make time for my oldest friend, "Judith," whom I have known since kindergarten. In the past we have gotten together for a few hours here and there—for dinner, coffee or whatever. She's great company, and we have fun together.

I'd like to spend more time with Judith, but Mom and Dad are close to 90 and there are many other relatives on my and my husband's side to see, which takes up most of our time.

Years ago, we tried to see all our friends, but more recently we have limited it to Judith and her husband and occasionally include a mutual friend.

Judith just e-mailed me telling me to "have a nice life" because if we were "truly" friends, I'd make more time with her. She won't reply to my e-mails or return my calls.

I respect her feelings, but feel pressured by the time constraints of our brief visits home. Judith has no children, a single brother and a married brother with whom she recently reunited.

I feel like I have committed some kind of crime. I think if she was a true friend, she'd understand my predicament. Please help.

DEEPLY HURT IN ARIZONA

**DEAR HURT: Your pal Judith doesn't appear to have matured much since kindergarten. Her behavior is petulant, immature and self-centered. Although you care for her, you cannot shirk your family obligations in order to placate her. If Judith can't appreciate that you have placed your family first, it's regrettable, but please don't permit her to punish you for it. You're doing the right thing and, although you may be hurt right now, let that be your consolation.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY**: I have been involved with "Rich" for 4 1/2 years. We are now engaged. In the beginning, everything was great. What I didn't know was that Rich had a baby on the way. I learned about it from a young woman who knocked on our door nine months later.

Rich said he was sorry and that he'd handle it. I knew the situation would be hard to accept, but suppressed my feelings like I always do instead of being honest about it.

Now this woman comes over whenever she wants. If she's angry about something, she'll say, "I don't want my baby around HER," meaning me. She has friends who work with me, and she has spread lies about me there. She has also called my house on several occasions and has been rude and nasty.

I have tried to deal with this, but Rich's infidelity and his having a child with another woman still hurts like it happened yesterday—and the child is now 3. Can you help me?

NOT MOVING ON IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR NOT MOVING ON: I'll try. Before things evolve any further, don't you think that it's time to be open and honest? You have unresolved anger issues to deal with, and rightfully so. That's why I strongly advise you and your fiance to start premarital and couples counseling NOW.**

**Did Rich know he had gotten a girl pregnant before she knocked on the door and told you? If so, then what other information might he also have forgotten to mention? And why would he tolerate the abusive behavior that the baby's mama is dishing out to you? If you want to be treated with the respect you deserve, you must assert yourself. And if you don't get it, then I advise you to ditch Rich.**

---

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HERE'S SOME CLEAN CLOTHES. WILL YOU PUT THEM AWAY PLEASE?
HEY, MY UNDERWEAR ISN'T PRESSED! NEITHER ARE MY SOCKS! YOU DIDN'T FINISH IRONING!
BUDDY, IF YOU WANT YOUR UNDERWEAR IRONED, YOU CAN DO IT YOURSELF!
WHAT KIND OF MOTHER ARE YOU?!
SHE SHOULD TAKE MORE PRIDE IN HER WORK.
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3-16

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

EVERY NAME MEANS SOMETHING, GARFIELD
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www.garfield.com
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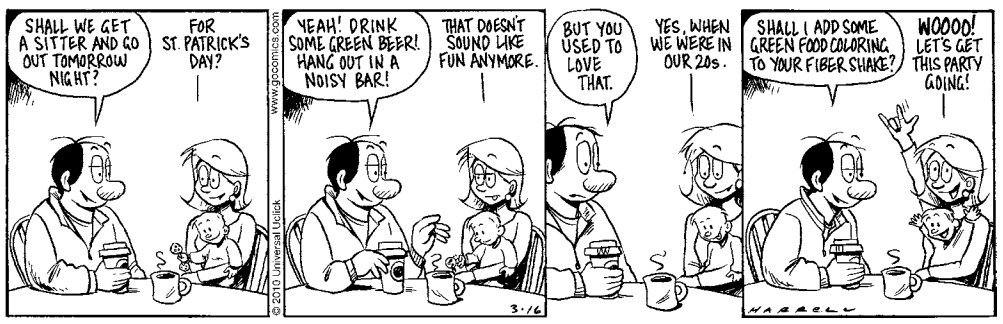
I'M LOOKING MINE UP
"JON...HE WHO GETS BEAT UP FOR HIS LUNCH MONEY"
NOW THAT'S JUST SCARY
JIM DAVIS 3-16

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SHALL WE GET A SITTER AND GO OUT TOMORROW NIGHT?
FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY?
YEAH! DRINK SOME GREEN BEER! HANG OUT IN A NOISY BAR!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE FUN ANYMORE.
BUT YOU USED TO LOVE THAT.
YES, WHEN WE WERE IN OUR 20s.
SHALL I ADD SOME GREEN FOOD COLORING TO YOUR FIBER SHAKE?
WOOOO! LET'S GET THIS PARTY GOING!
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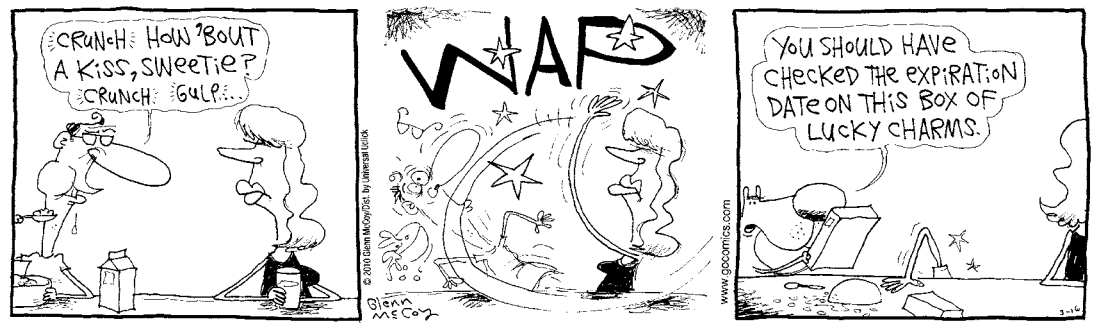
## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


CRUNCH HOW 'BOUT A KISS, SWEETIE? CRUNCH GULP...
WAP
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www.gocomics.com
3-16

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**
1 October birthstone
5 Loosen
9 Explosive, for short
12 Suitable
13 Appear
14 — de cologne
15 Nashville's home
17 Pen point
18 Pub missile
19 Punch bowl accessory
21 Pumpkin eater of rhyme
24 Plain and simple
25 Finished
26 Press agent?
30 Family
31 Centrifuge inserts
32 "— Got a Secret"
33 Style
35 Nicholas, for one
36 "— the Knife"
37 Meadow
38 Last Greek letter
40 Burn somewhat
42 Chignon
43 Octopus' arms
48 Superlative suffix
49 "— go bragh!"
50 Slender
51 "Of course"
52 Facts
53 Whirlpool

**DOWN**
1 Frequently
2 Chart format
3 Landers or Curry
4 Shylock, e.g.
5 Cold War initials
6 Bird's home
7 Sandra or Ruby
8 Brunch entrees
9 Treat meat?
10 Hammer's target
11 Toothpaste holder
16 Listener
20 Onassis, familiarly
21 Jab
22 Badder than bad
23 Some urban homes
24 Guy
26 Squealer
27 Fond du —, Wisconsin
28 Squished 35-Down
29 Dweeby sort
31 Stopped occupying
34 Joke
35 Ring, geometrically
37 Air safety org.
38 Do as I say
39 Ponder
40 Fit of peevishness
41 Sicilian spouter
44 Mound stat
45 Young bloke
46 Remnant
47 Firmament

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

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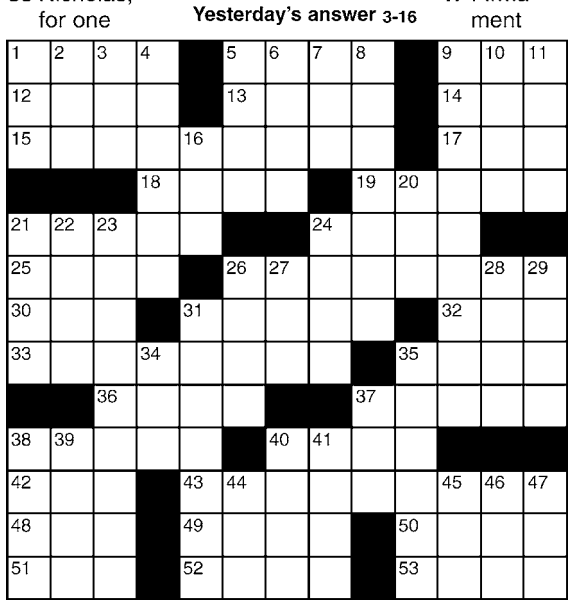
Yesterday's answer 3-16



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY**: Judah Friedlander, 41; Lauren Graham, 43; Victor Garber, 61; Bernardo Bertolucci, 70

**Happy Birthday**: Learn to relax and enjoy what life has to offer. Your impulsiveness will only get you into trouble this year, so think first in order to avoid costly personal and professional mistakes. Don't let someone limit what you can do for others. Let no one stand in your way or cause you to neglect your relationships or obligations. Your numbers are 8, 15, 25, 27, 32, 38, 40

**ARIES** (*March 21-April 19*): Nothing will be too much trouble for you. Do not travel off the beaten trail. Stick to what you know and what you promised to do. Love is in the stars but, if it's with someone who's married, take a pass. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (*April 20-May 20*): Keep your thoughts to yourself and avoid any unnecessary dealings with officials, authority figures, banks or hospitals. Concentrate on what you can do for others. Don't limit the possibilities because you lack confidence. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (*May 21-June 20*): It's the presence you have when you are passionate about something that will attract some interesting offers. You have the potential to make a difference but you cannot do it alone. Call upon people who owe you favors. ✪✪✪✪

**CANCER** (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let anyone force you to take on a responsibility that clearly does not belong to you. Avoid meddling in other people's affairs or letting someone interfere with yours. An older relative may need your help. ✪✪

**LEO** (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be ready to make a commitment or to show someone you care about that you are serious. Plan your next vacation or get involved in an interest course. Activities that require physical endurance or competition will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Someone looking for a handout may be taking advantage of you. Taking on someone else's misfortune will not solve the problem and it will cause you grief. Listen and make suggestions but don't pay for someone else's mistakes. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Partnership problems can be expected. Keep a close watch but don't make a move just yet. You have to get all the facts and work out a game plan. You will do best if you put your efforts into something creative or a job that can bring you benefits. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Your ideas, coupled with the new connections you've made, will enable you to promote your talent and a project into which you have put so much time and effort. Sudden good fortune is heading in your direction. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on home, family and being the best you can be. If you don't want to invite criticism or negative responses, don't procrastinate or fail to honor your promises. Property enhancement or a geographical move looks favorable. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You can make some changes that will help set you apart from the competition. Don't let emotional matters disrupt your plans or your productivity. A lesson you learned in the past will help to keep you on course now. ✪✪

**AQUARIUS** (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Before you settle back and accomplish little, finish a job or project that needs completing. Rely on past experience to guide you. Change is required and, if you do your homework, you will know exactly what's required. ✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's time to make changes that will lead to greater financial independence. Start saving and stop spending foolishly. If the price ticket for socializing is too high, suggest a night at home with someone you enjoy. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby**: You have lots of energy, are strong and are intent on getting your way. You have vision and welcome anything new and unusual.

*Eugenia's Web sites:* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | 8 | |
| | 9 | 2 | | | 1 | | 3 | 5 |
| | 4 | | | 3 | | 6 | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | 6 | | 9 | | | 7 | |
| 5 | 3 | | 7 | | | 8 | 1 | |
| | 7 | | | | | | 6 | |
| | | 1 | 2 | 8 | 9 | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/16

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Saturday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 1 | 5 |
| 4 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 |
| 3 | 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 3 | 7 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 2 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★ 3/15

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**THE AVERAGE DAY OF A SERGEANT MAJOR** **Solution: 8 letters**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | S | G | M | I | S | E | R | U | D | E | C | O | R | P |
| N | N | D | U | T | I | E | S | E | R | O | H | C | Y | A |
| O | V | O | R | A | D | R | E | S | S | C | D | T | T | S |
| I | A | E | I | O | R | O | L | E | O | E | I | A | E | T |
| T | L | S | T | (T) | C | D | C | M | P | L | D | G | F | A |
| A | U | T | A | (I) | C | E | M | O | I | E | D | N | A | N |
| D | E | R | S | (N) | L | A | R | B | N | I | F | I | S | D |
| N | S | O | K | (U) | N | T | I | T | E | T | O | D | E | A |
| E | G | P | S | D | M | S | H | N | S | O | R | L | E | R |
| M | N | E | R | E | N | U | E | T | R | A | M | O | K | D |
| M | I | R | N | O | S | R | R | D | N | T | A | H | L | H |
| O | T | T | P | I | G | I | E | K | A | R | L | P | Y | C |
| C | E | S | A | Y | V | R | V | C | O | N | D | U | C | T |
| E | E | S | R | E | V | O | A | D | R | I | L | L | S | A |
| R | M | I | S | S | I | O | N | M | A | N | A | G | E | W |

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Actions, Advises, Alert, Chores, Command, Conduct, Control, Data, Deportment, Dress, Drills, Duties, Energy, Enthusiasm, Formal, Guard, Manage, Meetings, Mission, Order, Oversee, Procedures, Program, Rank, Recommendations, Records, Reports, Responsibility, Role, Safety, Seek, Soldier, Standard, Strive, Tasks, Unit, Upholding, Values, Watch

**Yesterday's Answer: Thirst**

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Attorney for Bank of Guam

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **BANK OF GUAM,** Plaintiff, | **Civil Action No. 07-0177-CV** |
| vs. | **SECOND NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE** |
| **JOHN T. SABLAN, GLORIA DLG SABLAN, AND ANTONIO W. NEFAIKES,** Defendants. | |

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 26, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 008 C 08, situated in Talofofo, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 9,621 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey Official Cadastral Plat No. 008 C 02, Commonwealth Recorder's Office File No. 04-1103.

**Date, Time, and Place of Sale.** The sale will be held on March 16, 2010, at the hour of 10:00 am, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

**Terms and Conditions of Sale.**

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of January, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

# PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

CHI BUM AN

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PUBLIC & PRIVATE SECTOR THAT **MR. CHI BUM AN** AND **MRS. HYO SUK SHIN** ARE NO LONGER THE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR, RESPECTIVELY OF **INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION dba Saipan Karios University**. ANY BUSINESS TRANSACTION ENTERED INTO BY **MR. AN** AND **MRS. SHIN** IN BEHALF OF INTEGRATIVE CORPORATION FROM FEBRUARY 05, 2010 TO PRESENT, WERE NOT AUTHORIZED AND WILL NOT BE HONORED BY THE NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY.

*Note: Previous Kairos Company located in Dandan is not related to Integrative Corporation.*

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Sports
Angamwas rules 4-person
Tribune
FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009
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DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGE
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10 DAYS to go before Christmas
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|---|---|---|
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| • 5-Liner | **$24** | **$39** |
| • 3-Liner with picture | **$24** | **$42** |
| • 5-Liner with picture | **$36** | **$57** |

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Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

**Classified Ads**

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### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

*Saipan Tribune* will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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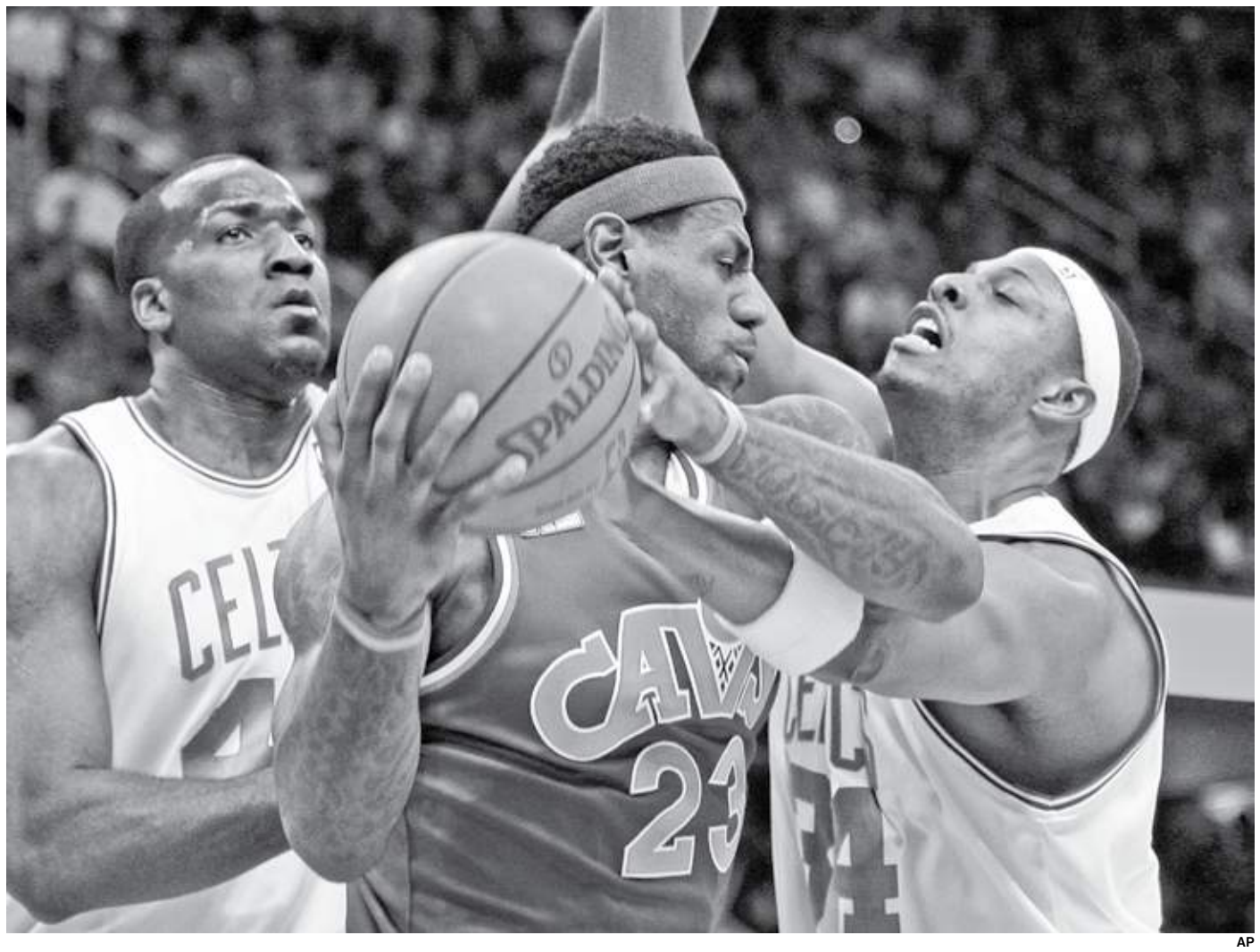
**Find today's solution in this section**

# LeBron scores 30 as Cavs down Celtics

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—LeBron James scored 30 points, including 24 in the second half, as Cleveland wore down the aging Boston Celtics for a 104-93 victory on Sunday, the Cavaliers' second decisive win over one of the East's premier teams in less than a month.

The Cavaliers were closer to full strength with the return of forward Antawn Jamison, who had 15 points and 12 rebounds after missing one game with a sore knee.

Ray Allen scored 20, while Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett had 18 apiece for the Celtics.



AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce (34) and Kendrick Perkins, left, harass Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) in the first quarter of an NBA basketball game Sunday, March 14, 2010, in Cleveland.

### Bobcats 96, Magic 89

At Orlando, Stephen Jackson scored 28 points and Raymond Felton had 16 as Charlotte held on for its sixth straight victory.

Stephen Graham added 12 points to help the Bobcats pull away with a late 12-3 run for their first win in four chances this season against the Southeast Division leader. And they did it without All-Star Gerald Wallace, out with an injured left ankle.

Dwight Howard had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and Vince Carter finished with 23 points for the Magic, who had their eight-game winning streak stopped.

### Thunder 119, Jazz 111

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 35 points, while Russell Westbrook added 30 points and 11 assists as Oklahoma City made up ground in the race for home-court advantage in the playoffs with a victory over short-handed Utah.

The Thunder shot a season-best 60 percent and never trailed while moving within a half-game of fourth-place Utah in the Western Conference. Oklahoma City has won 17 of its last 20 games and will finish no worse than .500 after going 23-59 last season.

Wesley Matthews hit six 3-pointers and scored a career-high 29 points for the Jazz, who played without injured starters Mehmet Okur (back) and Andrei Kirilenko (calf).

### Bucks 98, Pacers 94

At Milwaukee, Jerry Stackhouse equaled his season high with 20 points as Milwaukee survived a late rally from short-handed Indiana to win its sixth straight.

Andrew Bogut added 17 points and 12 rebounds, and John Salmons had 12 points for the Bucks, who have won 12 of their last 13.

Danny Granger scored 14 of his 29 points in the third quarter but missed a potential game-tying basket with just seconds remaining as the Pacers were swept in the season series.

### Heat 104, 76ers 91

At Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 38 points to help Miami beat Philadelphia.

With Wade resting on the bench and center Jermaine O'Neal out after being ejected, the Heat went on a 14-3 run to start the final period. James Jones sank a pair of 3-pointers during the spurt, and Jamaal Magloire's running dunk punctuated it to give Miami a 16-point lead.

The Heat won their third consecutive game to start a six-game homestand. They've won six in a row at home, their longest such streak in three seasons.

### Suns 120, Hornets 106

At Phoenix, Steve Nash had 13 points and 12 assists in his 1,000th NBA game and Amare Stoudemire had a dominant 36-point, 12-rebound performance as Phoenix beat injury-depleted New Orleans.

Stoudemire, playing just 32 minutes, topped 30 points for the fourth time in five games. The exception was a 29-point effort against the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night.

The Hornets, with only eight players in uniform for the second game in a row, have lost nine of 11. Marcus Thornton scored 28 points and David West scored 24 for New Orleans.

### Trail Blazers 109, Raptors 98

At Portland, Nicolas Batum scored 22 points, making five of six 3-point attempts, as Portland won its fourth straight.

LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 points and 12 rebounds for the Blazers, who have won nine of 11. Brandon Roy had 20 points.

Chris Bosh had 28 points and seven rebounds for the Raptors, who have lost five straight, matching a season high.

### Kings 114, Timberwolves 100

At Sacramento, Tyreke Evans had 29 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds to lead Sacramento over Minnesota, which has lost nine straight.

Donte Greene had 19 points and eight rebounds, helping the Kings avoid their fifth loss in six games. Jason Thompson had 15 points and eight rebounds, Carl Landry scored 13 points and Andres Nocioni had 12.

Al Jefferson had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who played without leading rebounder Kevin Love for the second consecutive game.

# Source: Beckham to miss World Cup

**MILAN, Italy** (AP)—David Beckham will miss the World Cup and most if not all the Los Angeles Galaxy season after tearing his left Achilles' tendon Sunday while playing for AC Milan.

His international career for England is all but over. It remains to be seen how much he'll have left for the Galaxy and Major League Soccer.

"He will miss the World Cup for sure," a person familiar with the injury told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because an official announcement had not been made. The person said it was likely the 34-year-old midfielder will play again.

Beckham was injured without getting hit during AC Milan's 1-0 Italian League win over visiting Chievo Verona.

With only a few minutes remaining and the score 0-0, Beckham was by himself with the ball at his feet, shifted his weight and reached a hand down to his left heel. Beckham then stood up and snapped his wrists like he was breaking a twig in half in a gesture to show the AC Milan bench he knew the tendon was broken.

Visibly in pain and in tears, Beckham went to the sideline for medical attention, leaving Milan a man short because all three substitutes had been used.

"He felt the muscle begin to come up, which is a typical symptom when you break an Achilles' tendon," Milan coach Leonardo told Sky. "This is a real blow."

Sky reported that Beckham said, 'It's broken, it's broken," when he came off.

Club physician Jean Pierre Meersseman told Italy's Sky TV that Beckham will fly to Finland, where he will be treated by specialist surgeon Dr. Sakari Orava.

"He'll go to Finland tomorrow and will be operated on probably tomorrow afternoon or Tuesday morning," Meersseman said.

While Beckham has not been a starter for England in recent matches, he was likely to make the World Cup roster as a reserve and looked forward to the high-profile June 12 matchup against the United States—and Galaxy teammate Landon Donovan. Although no longer a top player, Beckham was still useful for his free kicks and crosses, especially when England needed second-half goals.

And for many, he was the most-known soccer player in the world, a fashion icon with a celebrity wife, former Spice Girl Victoria Beckham. A 2002 movie was even named after him, "Bend it Like Beckham."

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid star was on his second loan stint to AC Milan from Los Angeles Galaxy as he looked to boost his chances of making England coach Fabio Capello's 23-man World Cup roster. With no chance to play in the World Cup, his international career is likely over after 17 goals and 115 appearances, second in English history behind only goalkeeper Peter Shilton's 125 matches from 1970-90.

Beckham was England's captain from November 2000 through the 2006 World Cup. He was due back with the Galaxy after the World Cup.

"He'll probably be out for five or six months," AC Milan vice president Adriano Galliani told Sky. "I saw him really suffering. In the changing room I hugged him and told him that if he wants he can join us next year, too."

It was yet another blow for Major League Soccer, already facing the threat of a players' strike ahead of the season opener on March 25. Beckham is the league's highest-paid player with a $32.5 million, five-year contract and its biggest draw.

"We just received the information about David's unfortunate injury," MLS commissioner Don Garber said. "We wish him a speedy recovery."

Galaxy coach Bruce Arena said it was too early to tell exactly how long Beckham will be out. He didn't want to discuss the impact the injury would have on Los Angeles' season. He wouldn't blame the injury on the loan.

"Players get hurt whether they're on loan or not," he said. "Injuries are unfortunately part of the game."

Capello and his England assistant Franco Baldini spoke with Beckham on the telephone to offer best wishes, according to British news agency The Press Association.

In April 2002, Beckham broke a bone in his left foot during a European Champions League game against Spain's Deportivo La Coruna. His injury and recovery were front-page news to fixated England fans.

England fell short in the 2002 World Cup and yet again in 2006, still hoping for its first title since 1966.

Beckham returned Sunday to AC Milan's starting lineup after a reserve-appearance in Wednesday's 4-0 Champions League loss at Manchester United, his first match at Old Trafford against his old club since he left after the 2002-03 season. Beckham was treated Sunday for a deep cut to his right cheek following a collision early in the first half.

With the game scoreless, Beckham nearly scored in the 84th, but Chievo goalkeeper Stefano Sorrentino stopped his close-range effort.

"Beckham came here because he wanted to help Milan return to the top and he was looking to get a jersey for the national team and participate in the World Cup," Milan defender Gianluca Zambrotta said. "If other victories come, there will surely be a dedication for David Beckham."

Sunday's win moved Milan (17-4-7) within one point of Serie A leader Inter Milan (17-3-8) with 10 games remaining.

# Els wins at Doral for 2nd world title

**DORAL, Fla.** (AP)—Ernie Els showed his South African protege what it takes to win a World Golf Championship. Just as important was that he showed himself how to win again, too.

Ending the longest drought of his 20-year career, Els played the final 23 holes on the Blue Monster without a bogey and closed with a 6-under 66 on Sunday to win the CA Championship by four shots over 25-year-old Charl Schwartzel.

It was far closer than the margin suggested.

Schwartzel, in his first time on a world stage, refused to let Els get away from him. Els was clinging to a one-shot lead as he stood over a 25-foot par putt on the 14th hole, and the Big Easy was relieved to see it fall on the final turn.

Schwartzel, a houseguest of Els the last two weeks, caught a bad break on the 15th hole when his ball plugged in a front bunker, and he knocked that into a back bunker on his way to a crucial bogey. He missed short putts on the next two holes and closed with a 70.

That allowed Els a strange sensation, walking up to the 18th green with his cap in hand, waving to the gallery, unable to contain a smile that showed equal parts relief and satisfaction.

AP

Ernie Els holds up the winners trophy after winning the World Golf Championship-CA Championship at Doral Resort.

"I'm 40 years old. I've had a tough run," Els said. "Whew! The hairs are standing up. It's just great."

Els last won two years ago at the Honda Classic, which he won while warming up on the range for a possible playoff. He became only the fifth player with multiple victories in the World Golf Championships, joining Tiger Woods, Darren Clarke, Geoff Ogilvy and Phil Mickelson.

It was his 61st victory worldwide, and 17th on the PGA Tour, and moved Els to No. 8 in the world ranking.

"My game was in good shape," said Els, who finished at 18-under 270. "I just wanted to prove to myself for once. Charl came at me all day. I had to come up with the goods."

It was a strong effort by Schwartzel, who has considered Els a hero since he first started playing golf. Despite two bogeys on the final four holes, he was the only player to give Els a run. And he was poised to take him down until his tee shot left him little hope in the sand.

"I plugged and that was a killer," Schwartzel said. "For me, it's been the biggest stage I've had. This is a good day for me."

Padraig Harrington fell out of the with three straight bogeys on the back nine, closing with a 72 to tie for third at 11-under 277 along with Matt Kuchar (68) and Martin Kaymer of Germany, who had a 69 and moved up to No. 7 in the world.

Alistair Presnell of Australia matched the best round of the day with a 64 and tied for sixth. Defending champion Phil Mickelson, who was never in the mix, shot a 68 and tied for 14th.

Els could not have imagined being in the final group at Doral with Schwartzel, and to see the two South Africans standing on the first tee under warm sunshine, it was easy to see what the Big Easy meant.

To think that Schwartzel was 2 when his father and Els won a club tournament together, or that he was among the gangly teens who traveled with the Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation junior team. More recently, Els invited the Schwartzel to stay in his south Florida home while Schwartzel was passing time between two WGC events.

And they stayed together for so much of the final round, trading birdies and keeping their names atop the leaderboard.

Els made birdie from the bunker on the opening hole. Schwartzel answered with a 25-foot birdie on the second. Els followed with two straight birdies, the most impressive on the 223-yard fourth with a shot into 8 feet despite a vicious right-to-left wind. Schwartzel fell three shots behind with a bogey from the bunker on No. 5, only to birdie his next three holes.

No one else joined the chase.

Harrington played bogey-free for 12 holes, but he had only two birdies. Robert Allenby pulled within a shot with an opening birdie, then went 10 holes before making another one. Kaymer went out in 33, then failed to make birdie on the par 5s on the back nine.

It became a South African duel in Miami, and Schwartzel gave Els about all he could handle until the end. After his bogey on the 15th, he left a 10-foot birdie putt short on the 16th, then drove into the palm trees on the 17th and took bogey.

Els suddenly has good vibes as he begins his road to the Masters, the one major that has haunted him throughout his career. His victory was worth $1.4 million, and moved him past Colin Montgomerie and atop the PGA European Tour career money list with about $33.6 million.

# Tomlinson signs two-year deal with NY Jets

**NEW YORK** (AP)—LaDainian Tomlinson is bolting for the Big Apple.

Tomlinson's agent, Tom Condon, said Sunday that the New York Jets signed the former Chargers running back to a two-year contract. The Jets confirmed that they have agreed to a deal, adding the aging star to the NFL's top-ranked rushing offense last season.

"He wanted to go to a team that he thought had a chance to compete for the championship," Condon told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "He wanted to go somewhere where he had a chance to have a significant role, and so with the Jets he also was going to be very familiar with the offensive system."

The Jets reached the AFC championship game last season, eliminating Tomlinson and the Chargers along the way.

The 2006 NFL MVP, cut last month by San Diego, chose New York over Minnesota after visiting the Vikings on Thursday. Tomlinson spent Friday with the Jets, capping it with dinner with coach Rex Ryan, general manager Mike Tannenbaum and other team officials.

The Jets went after Tomlinson hard even though he turns 31 in June, is coming off his least productive season and there are questions whether he has much left. New York apparently still saw plenty to like from Tomlinson, who ranks eighth on the NFL's career rushing list with 12,490 yards, and gave him a deal worth about $5.2 million.

Once one of the NFL's most dynamic players, Tomlinson is expected to back up second-year running back Shonn Greene, who emerged in his rookie season and made Thomas Jones expendable. Jones signed with Kansas City last week after running for a career-high 1,402 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Tomlinson was welcomed to the Jets by several of his new teammates on Twitter, including left tackle Damien Woody, defensive end Mike DeVito and All-Pro cornerback Darrelle Revis.

"Good move by the organization," Revis tweeted. "I couldn't be more excited about this."

Added Woody: "LaDainian running behind our line ... I think he'll put up better numbers than people think."

Former Chargers teammate Antonio Cromartie, acquired by the Jets before the trade deadline on March 4, said: "Congrats to my homie L.T."

The Jets were already selling Tomlinson jerseys on their official Web site within minutes of announcing the deal. The $80 green and white replicas are without a jersey number for now; third-year cornerback Dwight Lowery currently wears Tomlinson's familiar No. 21.

Tomlinson ran for 730 yards—his first season under 1,000—on 223 carries for an average of 3.3 yards per carry, all career lows. He scored 12 touchdowns, but his role was reduced in an offense that shifted its focus to quarterback Philip Rivers and the passing game.

He's still regarded as an excellent route runner and superb receiver, two qualities that made him attractive to both New York and Minnesota.

Tomlinson is the latest high-profile player to be signed, drafted or acquired by the Jets in the last few years, joining Cromartie, Brett Favre, Kris Jenkins, Mark Sanchez, Bart Scott and Braylon Edwards.

With the Jets moving into the new Meadowlands Stadium, the 82,500-seat, $1.6 billion home they'll share with the Giants, Tomlinson's star power could potentially help the team sell more personal seat licenses.

More than that, though, New York hopes Tomlinson's contributions on the field are greater. While he likely won't be the focal point of the offense, as he had been for so many years with the Chargers—a role he has said he's OK with—the Jets are hoping he can still be a dangerous presence with the ball in his hands.

He's also familiar with the Jets' style of offense and coordinator Brian Schottenheimer, who was San Diego's quarterbacks coach from 2002-05. The Jets have Sanchez returning for a second season, along with a solid offensive line that helped pave the way for New York to average a league-leading 172.2 yards on the ground per game.

Those factors might have helped the Jets beat out the Vikings for Tomlinson's services. While Minnesota was also just a game away from the Super Bowl, the uncertainty surrounding Favre's return might have caused Tomlinson to hesitate about signing with the Vikings.

Tomlinson met with Minnesota team officials Thursday, but left for the New York area without a deal. He then spent all of Friday with the Jets—touring the team's facility and the new stadium—before returning home to San Diego to mull his options on Saturday.

He was drafted with the fifth overall pick in 2001 out of TCU, and immediately became a star as he helped the Chargers become a perennial playoff contender. His 138 career touchdowns rushing rank second in NFL history, and his 153 total touchdowns rank third.

# *Browns trade quarterback Brady Quinn to Broncos*

Brady Quinn will get a chance to start over in Denver. Whether he'll get to start is up in the air.

The Broncos acquired the former first-round draft pick from the Cleveland Browns for fullback Peyton Hillis, a 2011 sixth-round draft pick and a conditional pick in 2012.

The teams announced the trade Sunday and said the deal is pending physicals.

Ostensibly, Quinn will compete with Kyle Orton for the Broncos' starting job, although coach Josh McDaniels was unavailable Sunday to comment on the trade, according to a team spokesman.

Quinn's departure comes one day after the Browns agreed to terms with free agent Jake Delhomme on a two-year contract. Quinn went 3-9 in 12 starts for Cleveland, which drafted him with the 22nd pick in the first round in 2007 out of Notre Dame.

From Dublin, Ohio, he was embraced by Browns fans as the quarterback of the future. But it never panned out for the Browns or Quinn.

"I appreciate everything Brady did for us last year and in his three seasons with the Cleveland Browns," coach Eric Mangini said in a statement. "He is professional in the way he goes about doing his job and worked extremely hard at every aspect of his game. I wish him the best of success in Denver."

Quinn won Cleveland's starting job last season, but was benched after 2 1/2 games for Derek Anderson. Quinn eventually got his job back when Anderson struggled but he was hindered by inaccuracy.

He completed only 53 percent of his passes last season for 1,339 yards with eight touchdowns and seven interceptions. His rating was 67.3.

Quinn's days in Cleveland appeared numbered when new president Mike Holmgren failed to endorse him as the Browns' future starter. Last week, the Browns acquired backup Seneca Wallace in a trade with Seattle, released Anderson and hosted Delhomme, recently cut by Carolina.

Holmgren's house cleaning continued Sunday, when he shipped another former first-round draft pick, linebacker Kamerion Wimbley, to the Oakland Raiders for draft picks. ***(AP)***

# Mahi Fishing Derby set for April 10

The Saipan Fishermen's Association and the Marianas Visitors Authority are making final preparations for the 6th Annual Mahi Fishing Derby on April 10.

About 40 boats are anticipated to launch from Smiling Cove Marina and join the one-day trolling event from 6am to 5pm. There's still time for fishermen to get their bids in to win cash prizes or just enjoy a day on the water.

The pre-registration and orientation for the trolling event will be on April 9 at Smiling Cove Marina from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, where SFA officials will also provide a briefing on the derby Rules and Regulations.

The derby will consist of five categories. Cash and in-kind prizes will be awarded for all top five finishers, including $1,500 for first prize. The entry fee is $100 for one captain and a crew of three, with an additional $25 per angler.

Spectators are invited to see the day's catch as fishermen begin returning to Smiling Cove Marina at about 4pm on derby day. The awards banquet will take place after the derby at the marina weigh station from 6pm to 9pm.

Registration forms are available at the MVA office, Fishing Tackle in Susupe, or Best Fishing in Garapan. All participating boats must observe safe boating rules and regulations, as failure to do so may result in the disqualification of the boat from the derby. A registered boater will not qualify for reimbursement if disqualification is due to negligence in furnishing the required safety equipments and current boating registration.

Last year, *St. Patrick* won the 5th Annual Miller Lite Mahi Fishing Derby after getting the heaviest catch of the day on Tinian waters.

Boat captain Manding Legaspi and anglers Tony Maestro and Dong Salini had a winning catch weighing 19.70 lbs. to bring home the top prize of $1,500 in cash, plus gift certificates from event sponsors.

For more information about the event or an electronic registration form, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 664-3200, or e-mail him at ftudela@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

## EX-OLYMPIAN

*From Page 28*

athlon, Jon hasn't visited Saipan for a prolonged period of time since 1996.

"Jon will be conducting swim clinics for kids in any phase of swimming, working with the swimmers and coaches. This is a great resource of opportunities for your swimmers to further their education, possibly meeting with parents in addition to the swimmers," his father Bill said in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The elder Sakovich said his son has a very high level swim program, from beginners to Olympic swimmers, and also has many international swimmers in his program.

"He is responsible for the summer swim camps at Bolles and has worked with many swimmers from around the world, including the Pacific islands, Palau and Hawaii, and several Asian countries," he added.

Jon started swimming in 1977 at 7 years old for the Saipan Swim Club and competed for the club in the Guam Swim League up through high school.

He attended Mt. Carmel School on Saipan and Father Duenas in Guam. In 1987 while still in high school, he competed for the CNMI in the South Pacific Games held in Noumea, New Caledonia and won six medals—two gold, three silver, and a bronze.

A year later while in high school in Guam he competed for the U.S. territory in the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea.

He enrolled at the University of Florida and after his first year was given a full scholarship, competing in the NCAA from 1991 to 1993.

Jon's best NCAA finish was fifth place and his team placed third in the NCAA Championships.

His events were 200, 500, and 1,500 freestyle. In 1993 he won three U.S. National titles in the 200m, 400m, and 15-kilometer Open Water Swim.

Internationally, Jon competed for the CNMI in the Pan Pacific Games in Australia and the World Championships in Japan and Australia. He donned Uncle Sam's colors in the Pan American Games in Argentina in 1995, winning a bronze medal in the 400m freestyle.

Jon also qualified for the U.S. Olympic trials in both 1992 and 1996, placing third in 1992, when they only chose the top two swimmers to compete, and eighth in 1996.

Between 1992 and 1996, Jon had World Rankings in the 400m, 800m, 1,500m, the best being 12th in 1994 in the 400m.

Jon graduated from the University of Florida and became a swimming coach, first coaching in Clearwater, Florida, then Jacksonville where he is now based. He is currently the assistant head coach for the Bolles School and Bolles Sharks and his teams are top ranked nationally.

Both his club and school teams consistently rank in the Top 3 in the nation. Jon is also the Florida Swimming Area representative for his region.

## MBI

*From Page 28*

whipping Cellular Pro in the curtain raiser, 89-50.

The battle of unbeaten teams started with World Resort/Advance getting the upper hand in the early part of the game. Rocyl Ritual knocked down 10 points in the first quarter, giving World Resort/Advance a 24-19 lead.

However, the remaining three quarters became an MBI show and even a World Resort late rally in the fourth quarter could not prevent the defending champions from keeping its record clean.

Ivan De Vero led MBI back into the game in the second quarter, firing eight more points after also scoring eight markers in the opening period. He drew contributions from five teammates in the second canto to put MBI on top at halftime, 48-41. The lead ballooned to double digits several times in the second half with Pando Muleta, R.J. Nonato, and Noel David also finding their marks.

Going into the last two minutes of the match, MBI was still ahead by 10 before Wowie Abuel's five straight points but the lead to five, 81-86, with 1:31 left on the clock.

World Resort went for a trapping defense at the backcourt, leaving George Barbo open for a baseline jumper. Two missed triples from World Resort returned possession to MBI and David escaped with a fastbreak layup. Another World Resort botched play paved way for a David layup and ensured MBI the victory.

De Vero top-scored for MBI with 24 points, Nonato chipped in 18, and David and Muleta contributed 17 and 15 markers, respectively.

Abuel paced World Resort with 26 points and almost single-handedly carried the team on his shoulders in the fourth period. Ritual finished with 20 markers, but was hounded in the fourth and went scoreless. Dennis Vinas tallied 14, but made only four field goals and missed a bundle from downtown.

The biggest missing link on World Resort's offense was Mike Olaitiman, who was held to five points, as he could not get his fastbreak game going against MBI's solid defense.

In the first game, Aqua Resort capitalized on a depleted Cellular Pro crew to nail a 49-point win.

Cellular Pro had only six players available for the game, allowing Aqua Resort to have a feast on offense.

Aqua Resort had six players scoring in double figures with Jaymar Torres leading the way with 18 points. Jessie Mina and Pedro Lizama added 15 apiece, Glenn Aquino tallied 11, and Mike and McClain Achas tallied 10 each.

Erick Dulfo and Robert Santos were the only double-figure scorers for Cellular Pro, nailing 15 and 11, respectively.

### First Game

**Aqua 89** – Torres 18, Mina 15, Lizama 15, Aquino 11, Mi. Achas 10, Mc. Achas 10, Johanes 8, Acosta 2.

**Cellular Pro 50** – Dulfo 15, Santos 11, Manuel 8, Mangami 6, Rotap 6, Guevarra 4.

**Scoring by quarters:** 23-15, 42-26, 69-34, 89-50.

### Second Game

**MBI 96** – De Vero 24, Nonato 18, David 8, Muleta 15, Trajano 9, Barbo 8, Viola 3, Achas 2.

**World Resort/Advance 84** – Abuel 26, Ritual 10, Vinas 14, Wabinga 7, Tabamo 5, Olaitiman 5, Gayo 3, Navarro 2, Apasan 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 19-24, 48-41, 70-58, 96-84.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 41 | 24 | .631 | — |
| Toronto | 32 | 33 | .492 | 9 |
| New York | 23 | 43 | .348 | 18 1/2 |
| Philadelphia | 23 | 43 | .348 | 18 1/2 |
| New Jersey | 7 | 59 | .106 | 34 1/2 |

**Southeast Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 47 | 21 | .691 | — |
| Atlanta | 42 | 23 | .646 | 3 1/2 |
| Charlotte | 34 | 31 | .523 | 11 1/2 |
| Miami | 35 | 32 | .522 | 11 1/2 |
| Washington | 21 | 43 | .328 | 24 |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Cleveland | 52 | 15 | .776 | — |
| Milwaukee | 36 | 29 | .554 | 15 |
| Chicago | 31 | 34 | .477 | 20 |
| Detroit | 23 | 43 | .348 | 28 1/2 |
| Indiana | 21 | 45 | .318 | 30 1/2 |

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

**Southwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 45 | 22 | .672 | — |
| San Antonio | 39 | 25 | .609 | 4 1/2 |
| Memphis | 35 | 32 | .522 | 10 |
| Houston | 33 | 31 | .516 | 10 1/2 |
| New Orleans | 32 | 35 | .478 | 13 |

**Northwest Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 45 | 21 | .682 | — |
| Utah | 42 | 24 | .636 | 3 |
| Oklahoma City | 41 | 24 | .631 | 3 1/2 |
| Portland | 41 | 28 | .594 | 5 1/2 |
| Minnesota | 14 | 53 | .209 | 31 1/2 |

**Pacific Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 48 | 18 | .727 | — |
| Phoenix | 41 | 26 | .612 | 7 1/2 |
| L.A. Clippers | 25 | 42 | .373 | 23 1/2 |
| Sacramento | 23 | 44 | .343 | 25 1/2 |
| Golden State | 18 | 47 | .277 | 29 1/2 |

**x-clinched playoff spot**

**Yesterday's Games**

Milwaukee 98, Indiana 94
Cleveland 104, Boston 93
Miami 104, Philadelphia 91
Charlotte 96, Orlando 89
Oklahoma City 119, Utah 111
Sacramento 114, Minnesota 100
Portland 109, Toronto 98
Phoenix 120, New Orleans 106

### CA CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

**DORAL, Florida** (AP)–Scores Sunday after the final round of the $8.5 million World Golf CA Championship at the par-72, 7,334-yard TPC Blue Monster course

FINAL ROUND

| | |
|---|---|
| Ernie Els (550), $1,400,000 | 68-66-70-66–270 |
| Charl Schwartzel (0), $850,000 | 67-70-67-70–274 |
| Matt Kuchar (152), $426,667 | 71-71-67-68–277 |
| Martin Kaymer (0), $426,667 | 70-72-66-69–277 |
| Padraig Harrington (152), $426,667 | 70-68-67-72–277 |
| Alistair Presnell (0), $214,300 | 72-70-72-64–278 |
| Graeme McDowell (0), $214,300 | 74-68-70-66–278 |
| Alvaro Quiros (0), $214,300 | 72-69-69-68–278 |
| Paul Casey (90), $214,300 | 69-72-68-69–278 |
| Bill Haas (90), $214,300 | 71-66-70-71–278 |
| John Senden (69), $126,667 | 69-70-71-69–279 |
| Vijay Singh (69), $126,667 | 68-71-70-70–279 |
| Robert Allenby (69), $126,667 | 68-67-71-73–279 |
| Phil Mickelson (61), $107,500 | 71-69-72-68–280 |
| Francesco Molinari (0), $107,500 | 69-71-72-68–280 |
| Steve Stricker (56), $97,500 | 73-69-71-68–281 |
| Camilo Villegas (56), $97,500 | 72-68-70-71–281 |
| Jason Dufner (52), $89,000 | 73-69-75-65–282 |
| Sean O'Hair (52), $89,000 | 71-71-74-66–282 |
| J.B. Holmes (52), $89,000 | 69-70-73-70–282 |
| Soren Hansen (0), $89,000 | 69-69-71-73–282 |
| Anthony Kim (48), $81,000 | 71-73-71-68–283 |
| Heath Slocum (48), $81,000 | 74-71-70-68–283 |
| Yuta Ikeda (0), $81,000 | 71-68-74-70–283 |
| Tim Clark (48), $81,000 | 70-69-74-70–283 |
| Nick Watney (44), $75,500 | 73-72-71-68–284 |
| Mike Weir (44), $75,500 | 73-66-75-70–284 |
| Peter Hanson (0), $75,500 | 74-66-74-70–284 |
| Luke Donald (44), $75,500 | 70-75-69-70–284 |
| Y.E. Yang (38), $70,000 | 73-72-75-65–285 |
| Brian Gay (38), $70,000 | 74-69-74-68–285 |
| Scott Verplank (38), $70,000 | 76-72-69-68–285 |
| Ross McGowan (0), $70,000 | 76-71-70-68–285 |
| Lee Westwood (0), $70,000 | 74-68-74-69–285 |
| Wen-Chong Liang (0), $70,000 | 72-69-71-73–285 |
| Hunter Mahan (38), $70,000 | 72-70-69-74–285 |
| Ian Poulter (31), $62,500 | 72-78-72-64–286 |
| Stewart Cink (31), $62,500 | 75-74-72-65–286 |
| Sergio Garcia (31), $62,500 | 74-72-71-69–286 |
| Zach Johnson (31), $62,500 | 76-70-71-69–286 |
| Ben Crane (31), $62,500 | 74-73-69-70–286 |
| Jim Furyk (31), $62,500 | 70-76-69-71–286 |
| Henrik Stenson (31), $62,500 | 71-72-71-72–286 |
| Gonzalo Fdez-Castano (0), $62,500 | 72-68-71-75–286 |
| Anders Hansen (0), $56,000 | 76-70-74-67–287 |
| Ryan Palmer (24), $56,000 | 79-68-72-68–287 |
| Geoff Ogilvy (24), $56,000 | 72-71-75-69–287 |
| Ross Fisher (0), $56,000 | 73-72-70-72–287 |
| Kenny Perry (24), $56,000 | 73-74-68-72–287 |
| Simon Dyson (0), $50,500 | 72-73-73-70–288 |
| Kevin Na (19), $50,500 | 78-70-70-70–288 |
| David Toms (19), $50,500 | 72-72-72-72–288 |
| Jerry Kelly (19), $50,500 | 70-72-73-73–288 |
| Angel Cabrera (19), $50,500 | 74-71-70-73–288 |
| Adam Scott (19), $50,500 | 74-69-71-74–288 |
| Retief Goosen (14), $45,500 | 76-71-73-70–290 |
| Thongchai Jaidee (0), $45,500 | 73-72-73-72–290 |
| Dustin Johnson (14), $45,500 | 69-72-76-73–290 |
| Lucas Glover (14), $45,500 | 72-72-71-75–290 |
| Soren Kjeldsen (0), $43,000 | 74-78-73-66–291 |
| Edoardo Molinari (0), $42,500 | 72-74-72-74–292 |
| Robert Karlsson (0), $42,000 | 78-70-73-72–293 |
| Marc Leishman (8), $41,250 | 78-73-71-72–294 |
| Miguel A. Jimenez (0), $41,250 | 73-75-73-73–294 |
| Steve Marino (6), $40,625 | 75-71-77-72–295 |
| Rory McIlroy (6), $40,625 | 76-73-73-73–295 |
| Oliver Wilson (0), $40,250 | 78-74-77-67–296 |
| Michael Sim (3), $40,000 | 75-74-77-74–300 |

***BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS***

### LOCAL SCORES

**SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MBI | 7 | 0 |
| Aqua Resort | 6 | 1 |
| World Resort | 5 | 1 |
| Fiesta Resort | 5 | 1 |
| Shirley's | 4 | 2 |
| AON/NJ Plus | 3 | 3 |
| Pacific Islands Club | 3 | 2 |
| Mobil | 2 | 3 |
| TBK | 2 | 3 |
| McGraw-Hill | 2 | 3 |
| Pepsi | 1 | 3 |
| Bank of Guam | 1 | 3 |
| Cell Pro | 0 | 5 |
| Docomo/SGH | 0 | 5 |
| Hard Rock | 0 | 5 |

## LITTLE

*From Page 28*

The match was tied after five complete innings, 4-all, when JPO leadoff batter Ethan Lizama walked. Songao was next at bat, singled, and drove Lizama home for JPO's 5-4 lead. Songao later made it a 6-4 tally, as she stole second base and then reached home plate on A's errors at third base.

Lizama, who relieved starting pitcher Keir Ajida in the fourth inning, preserved the win with three strikeouts at the bottom of the sixth inning.

### Red Sox 11, Lions 1

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox nearly shut out the Lions, recording an 11-1 triumph.

The Red Sox needed only three and a half innings to nail the victory, as they capitalized on an erratic Lions.

A six-run bottom of the first inning gave Red Sox control of the match, as they scored five runs off Lions' miscues. Red Sox tallied two more runs off Lions' errors, while Craig Aguon blasted a two-run triple to pad the lead in the second inning.

The Lions broke into the scoreboard at the bottom of the second on G-Boy Taitifong one-run double, before Red Sox pitcher Jhace Palacios struck out the Lions' last three batters in that inning.

In the last two innings, Palacios allowed no hits, walked two, and had two strikeouts.

### Twins 7, Braves 4

Relief pitcher Jun Atalig went 2-for-3 at bat and scored three RBIs to lift the Twins to a 7-4 win over the Braves.

M.J. Sakisat went 2-for-3 and added one RBI, while P.J. Sablan hit 2-for-4 and also tallied one RBI to help the Twins' cause. Both sluggers logged two runs each.

## DALY

*From Page 28*

Australia's Emma Viotto was the first overall female finisher in the race, logging 2:24:50, which was also the third best time overall. Joshua Stevens finished second overall behind Daly with the former timing in at 2:23:23. Stevens also ruled the 30 to 34 age group.

Other age group top finishers in the men's division were Abe Kim (2:30:14), Maximo Simian (2:24:52), James Abuy (2:46:56), and Peter Bonser (2:25:44).

In the women's division, the age group champions were Maya Takahashi (3:42:35), Emily Matson (3:23:41), and Karly O'Neal (3:09:03).

In the relay race, the trio of Glenn Policare, Ronald Lanuza, and Byron Dela Cruz bested five other teams. Policare finished the swim race in 13:13, Lanuza timed in at 1:51:35 in the bike portion, and Cruz submitted 13:50 in the run leg for the group's total time of 2:20:26.

Other finishers in the relay event were the teams of Mayson Esechu and Celerino Calayag (2:27:22); Jeff Taylor and Ben Babauta (2:47:13); Tom Linden, Janet King, and Irma Halaby (3:13:47); Gester Garcia and Justis Tenorio (3:28:34); and Kaisei Toda, William Fong, and Pedro Tenorio (4:37:01).

Toda was the youngest swimmer in the race, but was the fastest, clocking in at 8:48, while Dela Cruz was the fastest runner, completing the 5km race at the American Memorial Park compound in 13:50.

# Swim Leg in 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship

Participants in the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship gather at the shore at Micro Beach for a briefing on the swim course on Saturday.

Saipan's Andres Buitrago, front, and Canadian pro Mike Vine runs to the shore for the second and final lap of the swim course.

United Kingdom's Michael Hiscott in action in the swim course.

Tsunami Saipan's Kai Staal completes the first lap of the 1.5-kilometer swim portion of the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship participants plunge into the waters off Micro Beach.

A group of swimmers run back to the waters off Micro Beach for the second and final lap of the swim course.

Saipan's Mieko Carey jumps and heads back to the waters off Micro Beach for the second and final lap of the swim course.

Japan's Rumi Takahashi and Saipan's Manny Sitchon take careful steps heading back to the waters off Micro Beach after completing the first lap of the swim course.

Saipan Swim Club's Andrew Kimball runs to the swim-bike transition area to tag teammate John Jenkins.

Participants in XTERRA Sport watch swimmers in XTERRA Championship division while waiting for their turn to plunge into the waters off Micro Beach.

LeBron scores 30 as Cavs down Celtics

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

# Daly leads way in XTERRA Sport

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kieran Daly goes down one of the bike trails on Mt. Tapochao during the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Island Club general manager Kieran Daly cruised to back-to-back wins in XTERRA Saipan Championship after ruling the Sport division in record pace last Saturday.

Daly timed in at one hour, 57 minutes, and 23 seconds in the 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer bike leg, and 5-km run, crushing his 2009 winning time of 2:00:02. He was the third fastest in the swim leg, clocking in at 10:07, first in the uphill bike race at 1:28:39, and third in the run with his 15:55.

His record-finish in the shorter course allowed Daly to top the men's 45 to 49 age group, beating Colorado's Peyman Razifor (2:25:34) and Saipan's Noel Altamirano (2:26:27) and Derek Chambers (2:55:50). Daly was also the lone finisher in the Sport division to complete the race under two hours.

Last year's overall first female finisher, Heather Kennedy, ruled her age group (40 to 44), but placed only second overall in the women's division this year. Kennedy submitted 2:36:09 to place 11th out of the 21 triathletes who joined the XTERRA Sport individual race. She posted 16:06 (14th) in the swim leg, 1:59:45 (11th) in the bike portion, and 18:24 (7th) in the run part.

See DALY on Page 26

# Ex-Olympian Jon Sakovich expected back home

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

After being away for 24 years, 1988 Olympian and U.S. national swimmer Jon Sakovich will be coming home to Saipan this month to conduct a series of clinics at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

The son of NMASA Hall of Fame inductees and Saipan Swim Club pioneers Bill and Jean Sakovich, Jon is currently a senior assistant swim coach for the Bolles School and Bolles Sharks in Jacksonville, Florida,

He is expected to arrive on Saipan on March 22 and will leave on March 26. Except for a brief stay in 2002 when he took part in the Tagaman Tri-

See EX-OLYMPIAN on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Seoul Olympian Jon Sakovich is seen here coaching his swimmers at Bolles School where he serves as senior assistant swim coach.

# Little Falcons shut out Hustlers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Little Falcons were on target Saturday morning, crushing the Hustlers, 26-0, during their game in the Majors division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball competition at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Pitcher A.J. Evangelista and catcher Matt Camacho were flawless at bat, both hitting 4-for-4 at the plate. The Little Falcons pitcher and catcher also scored three runs and three RBIs each. Shortstop Logan Martin was 3-for-4 at bat, tallied three runs, and added two RBIs. Also making two RBIs each were third baseman Cris Sablan, who went 2-for-5 at bat, and Mac Travis, who hit 2-for-3 at the plate.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Little Falcons fielder throws to their pitcher during one of their games in the Majors division of the SLLB last month at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Little Falcons started the game with a six-run top of the first, scoring three runs off Hustlers' errors. After a shutout in the second inning, the Little Falcons recovered big time with a 13-run top of the third to break the game wide open.

The match ended after only four complete inning, as the best the Hustlers could do at the bottom of the fourth was reached second base.

Evangelista pitched in no relief for the Little Falcons, had six strikeouts, allowed only one hit, and walked three.

## JPO 6, A's 4

In the third game of the day, JPO Enforcers slipped past the A's, 6-4.

Shortstop Fred Songao hit a one-run single to break the tie and then reached home plate to give JPO cushion going into the bottom of the sixth inning.

See LITTLE on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MBI's Ivan De Vero, right, tries to dribble away from the defense of World Resort/Advance's Wowie Abuel during their game in the Shirley's caging on Saturday at the JP Center Basketball Court.

# MBI hands World Resort first loss

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesian Brokers, Inc./Dial Full Force now claims the distinction of being the only undefeated team in the 2nd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League.

Coming into Saturday's game at the JP Center Basketball Court, the defending champion shared the honor with World Resort/Advance, but a 96-84 win in the second match of the night allowed MBI to keep its unbeaten record in seven games. World Resort dropped to a 5-1 mark, going two notches down in the team standings behind MBI (7-0) and Aqua Resort Club (6-1).

Aqua Resort climbed from third to solo second place after

See MBI on Page 26